

# THE JOURNAL

July 11, 2003

50 cents (tax included)

**Sports** Albany-Berkeley Girls Softball 10B's post a convincing win [C1]

**Arts** A summer camp for the media-inclined [C3]

## Target proposal wins city approval

By Alan Lopez

ALBANY — The Redevelopment Agency has approved a Target store for Eastshore Highway, saying the project would generate much-needed sales tax revenue and upgrade a blighted area of property.

Some community members opposed the project or said it needed more study. There were concerns that it would create traffic headaches and needed to be planned more closely with other developments in west Albany.

"This whole development needs further discussion," said resident Bart Grossman. "You

need to look at the multiple impacts of all the developments (in west Albany) before we proceed."

Members of the City Council, acting as the city's Redevelopment Agency, countered that Target was a responsible developer, and any potential impacts would be mitigated.

"This is a perfect opportunity for economic development in this community," said agency member Jon Ely. "This is a perfect example of in-fill development."

The Target store, designed to be an industrial-looking building to match the look of other buildings on Eastshore Highway, is scheduled to be built by October, 2004. It will generate an esti-

mated \$350,000 to \$400,000 in additional annual sales tax for Albany, said city planning manager Dave Dowswell.

The public has debated the project for the last month, as it came before the city's planning and zoning commission and then the Reinvestment Agency for approval. The store would be unlike anything else in the city, Dowswell had said.

Critics have charged that the project would generate new traffic in an already congested area, particularly near the freeway on-and-off ramps at Eastshore Highway and Buchanan and at Gilman streets. Some argued it would change the character of

the city and drive business away from Solano Avenue.

City officials said traffic could be mitigated and residents could adjust. The Albany Chamber of Commerce strongly supported Target, saying Solano Avenue does not offer the same goods as the big box store and would not be in direct competition.

The property sits in a redevelopment area that spans the entire length of Eastshore Highway and Cleveland Avenue in Albany. Redevelopment is intended to eliminate blight and increase the value of property in particular areas.

See APPROVAL, Page A8



THE DESIGN of the store is intended to fit in with its industrial surroundings.

## ALL THE RIGHT MOVES



MANOOSH MOGHADAM, 11 of El Cerrito, makes a calculated move during a class at the Berkeley Chess School.

JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

## Chess camp kids have grand time mastering game

Young players get lessons in game from Irish National Champion

By Martin Snapp

STAFF WRITER

Eleven-year-old Manoosh Moghadam drew herself up to full height — all 4-feet-4-inches — and surveyed the chessboard in front of her. She noticed her opponent, a boy two

years older and several inches taller, had overextended his pawn development.

Quick as a flash, she pounced on his mistake. His defenses quickly crumbled, and a few moves later it was all over. "I love to crush 'em," the El Cerrito resident confided afterward.

Then the boy's lower lip began to quiver, and he started crying. Instantly, Manoosh transformed from terminator to

tenderness.

"Don't cry," she said, putting her arm around his shoulder. "It's only a game. You played great."

They were playing in a master class at the Berkeley Chess School, taught by a visiting celebrity: Sam Collins, the 20-year-old Irish National Champion and Chess Olympics Gold Medalist.

"These kids have the right perspective," said Collins. "Chess

is important, but so are a lot of other things. They need to have a life outside chess."

In fact, Manoosh — who was named one of the 100 best players her age in the whole country — also loves horseback riding, swimming, basketball, volleyball, playing the flute, watching "The Simpsons" and listening to Savage Garden and Eminem.

She also spends a lot of time

See CHESS, Page A8

## El Cerrito's celebration a bigger hit than ever

Funds raised by the July 4 are going to the local Ys for Tots program

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — The city's fourth of July celebration seems to get bigger and better every

year, the latest version drawing an estimated 6,000 to 8,000 people.

Last week's event was considered even more successful because part of it moved from the city's community center to the Portola Middle School grounds, bringing it closer to the events taking place directly across the

street at Cerrito Vista Park.

"We normally hold it at the Community Center," said Fire Chief Mark Scott, chairman of the celebration. "We were a little bit worried about holding it (at Portola), but it's a little better venue because it blends so well with what's happening at the park."

As usual, the celebration at Cerrito Vista Park featured the world music-flavored worldOne festival, hosting nine acts throughout the day plus jewelry, clothing and food booths, a rock-climbing wall and carnival games for children.

See FAIR, Page A8

## Albany, Caltrans at odds over land

■ A planned Pierce Street park is in limbo while the two sides try to come to terms over land cost

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — The city has struck out on a deal to buy land for sports fields next to the Interstate 80 and 580 freeways and is looking for a savior in Assemblywoman Loni Hancock.

The problem: A 4½-acre parcel that used to be a freeway on-and-off ramp has been appraised by property owner Caltrans at about \$6 million. The city says it's worth \$360,000, a scant 6 percent of Caltrans' appraisal.

Hancock sponsored AB 929, a bill in the state legislature that would cut the cost of the land — the so-called "Pierce Park" — in half, though Caltrans says the sale would be unconstitutional.

City officials are frustrated by the slow progress of a land transfer they've been negotiating for years.

"The concern we now have is we feel that Caltrans is headed down a path in which they're trying to extract as much money as possible for this land as opposed to working with us — given the city's limited funds — working with us to allow us to buy this as a park," said City Administrator Beth Pollard.

In the mid-1990s, Caltrans slated a 1-acre portion of the property to become a "mini-park" with a sound wall to buffer freeway noise as part of mitigation required after modifying the Interstate 80-580 interchange.

The public wanted a bigger park for sports fields that could be purchased through a combination of lighting and landscap-

ing taxes and the Measure F bond measure passed last November, Pollard said.

The city expected Caltrans to give up the entire property at a minimal cost. Caltrans agreed last year that it would prepare the site for use as a future park in exchange for the city paying for property appraisal.

Hancock's bill would force Caltrans to lease the property as a park to Albany for \$1 a year for five years, with an option for the city to buy it at 50 percent of its appraised value.

City officials say they've saved Caltrans \$900,000 for the cost of building a sound wall. Using the land as a park now would also give Caltrans the option of using it for transit in the future.

Caltrans says it has already credited the city \$1.3 million in various project funds in exchange for the sound wall project, according to a senate transportation committee analysis. In addition, selling it at 50 percent of its market value would violate the state constitution and cause the state transportation fund to lose money.

"We're far apart, obviously," said city engineer Randy Leptien. "Their (Caltrans) policy is that it be appraised at a highest and best use and that use is probably residential. We think the highest and best use is a public park."

The assembly passed Hancock's bill, but on July 1, a Senate transportation committee tabled it and will revisit it in January, giving time for the city to reappraise the land.

"They (the senate subcommittee) basically wanted the agency to solve it locally," Leptien said. "I think we understand that but we're frustrated. We've been working on this for a number of years and it's been moving at a terribly slow pace."



A VACANT ALBANY property that used to be an on-ramp to Interstate 80 is envisioned by the city for construction of a Pierce Park, but it may take higher level intervention to reach agreement with Caltrans on its purchase.

JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

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INFORMATION FOR LIFE



## NEWS BRIEFS

## Albany

## Comcast work may interrupt TV service

Starting this week, cable television operator Comcast Corporation will upgrade the city's cable system in a project that may result in brief daytime interruptions of cable television service. The work is expected to last until early fall. During construction, residents can call 1-800-945-2288 for daily reports of construction activities in the area or if service interruptions are not completed by 5 p.m.

Approved by the City Council, control of the city's franchised cable television operator switched from AT&T Broadband to Comcast Corporation in November.

The agreement stipulated that Comcast would complete a systems upgrade of the cable system so that it could provide high-speed Internet access no later than Dec. 31, 2005.

## El Cerrito

## Night Out aims for safer neighborhoods

The El Cerrito Police Department and crime prevention committee are calling on volunteers to help organize neighborhood activities on El Cerrito's Sixth Annual National Night Out, a celebration that brings the community together while promoting crime prevention, to be held Aug. 5.

National Night Out is an annual event designed to make neighborhoods safer by highlighting the importance of citizen awareness in preventing criminal activity. Residents can meet and socialize with neighbors and get acquainted with El Cerrito police officers and city officials who will be visiting events throughout the city. More than 50,000 communities across the nation will celebrate National Night Out.

Volunteers are needed to organize activities in their neighborhoods. Events range from potlucks or barbecues to simply taking time to visit with neighbors or creating an emergency neighborhood contact list.

Informational meetings will be held for community members interested in learning more about National Night Out or who would like to help organize an activity: 7 p.m. July 15 at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, and 7 p.m. July 23 at the El Cerrito Royale Retirement Residence, 6510 Gladys Ave.

Residents unable to attend one of the meetings are encouraged to contact the El Cerrito Crime Prevention Committee at 510-215-4144, ext. 30 or e-mail [crimeprevention@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:crimeprevention@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) with questions or to sign up as a neighborhood captain.

## Stege to consider hiking sewer rates

Stege Sanitary District, which provides sewer service for 40,000 residents in El Cerrito, Kensington and the Richmond Annex, will consider raising home and business sewer rates at its next meeting.

Under the proposed increases, single-family homes now paying \$89.28 and apartments and other multi-unit homes now paying \$66.72 annually would pay \$111 after three years.

Commercial, industrial and institutional rates are based on water use proportional to the average residential water use and residential charge. The current charge is about \$1.26 per 1,000 gallons of water used. The proposal calls for an increase to \$1.74 per 1,000 gallons after three years.

The district is raising rates to decrease its debt, keep up with the cost of inflation and new regulations, and to make up for lower fund reserves. Rates would increase incrementally over three years, starting in fiscal 2003-04.

Single-family homes would see an initial annual increase of \$6.72, an additional \$7.20 the next year and another \$7.80 after that. Rates for multi-unit housing would first rise \$14.28, an additional \$15 the next year and \$15 after that.

Non-residential properties, would see a hike to \$1.50 per 1,000 gallons, then to \$1.62 the next year and finally \$1.74.

The Stege Sanitary District board of directors will conduct a public hearing and then make a decision on the rate increases at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, July 17, at the district office, 7500 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito. For more information, call 510-524-4667.

## High school's 30th reunion set for Aug. 2

The El Cerrito High school class of 1973 will hold its 30-year reunion at Aug. 2 at the Mira Vista Country Club, 7901 Cutting Blvd., El Cerrito, from 6:30 p.m. to midnight.

This year's goal, say organizers, is "a combination of having a great event and scaling back the cost in light of the fragile economy. We rolled back prices almost to the 20-year reunion rates. We're having Gaucho BBQ Chicken and Ribs with all the fixin's, ice cream sundaes, dancing to the music of the group Blue Sky." Dress is country-club casual but organizers request no blue denim jeans. "Come as you are without buying a new dress or jacket," they say in an e-mail release. Cost is \$55 per person or \$110 per couple. Send check to El Cerrito Class of 1973 c/o Dale Myer, P.O. Box 153, Clayton, CA. 94517 or online payments accepted at PayPal to [ECHS1973@aol.com](mailto:ECHS1973@aol.com) by July 18. Details: Kevin Berndt, 510-525-0644.

## Democratic club to discuss racial tracking

Michael Harris, assistant director for the S.F. Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights, will be the guest at the El Cerrito Democratic Club's July meeting. Harris will speak on the initiative put forward by Ward Connerly, which would prohibit the state from tracking racial demographic data. The Democratic Club will meet on Tuesday, July 22, at 8 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave.

## ALBANY POLICE

## Monday, June 30

**ATTEMPTED CAR THEFT** — A resident on the 700 block of Adams Street reported that while he was away on vacation, thieves broke into his silver '97 Honda Civic that was parked in a covered parking area. Nothing had been taken but the steering column and ignition had been damaged. There were no witnesses.

## Tuesday, July 1

**TIRE SLASHED** — During the night, vandals slashed the tire of a silver '72 Jaguar parked on the 600 block of Masonic Avenue. There were no witnesses.

**PROWLER** — A resident on the 1100 block of Ordway Street reported that during the day, someone had entered her home and prowled around. There were no witnesses.

## Wednesday, July 2

**MOTORCYCLE STOLEN** — Between 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., thieves stole a gray '01 Suzuki motorcycle that was parked on the 1100 block of Jackson Street. There were no witnesses.

## Thursday, July 3

**THEFT** — A resident on the 1100 block of Marin Avenue reported that while she was moving into an apartment, two thieves went into her apartment and stole credit cards. She described one of the thieves as a black male juvenile with dreadlocks, wearing a black T-shirt. Her son chased the subjects south on Stannage Avenue but lost them. Police are investigating.

**NO DRIVER'S LICENSE** — Officers stopped a new red Kia on the 1100 block of San Pablo Avenue for a vehicle code violation.

cle code violation. They arrested the Vacaville man for driving without a driver's license and for resisting an officer. He was cited and released with a notice to appear.

## Friday, July 4

**FIREWORKS** — Over the weekend there were several reports of noisy fireworks that were set off in various locations throughout the city. Some resulted in small fires that were quickly extinguished.

**DUI** — At about 2 a.m., officers stopped a vehicle near San Pablo and Washington avenues for speeding and driving without headlights on. The driver, a 22-year-old Berkeley man, failed the Field Sobriety Test with a score of .166. He was arrested for DUI and for driving without a license, cited and released with a notice to appear.

**OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — Shortly before midnight, officers stopped a red '87 Dodge Aries for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 47-year-old Albany man, was found to have an outstanding DUI warrant from San Francisco in the amount of \$10,000. He was cited and released with a notice to appear.

## Saturday, July 5

**DUI** — Shortly after midnight officers stopped an '88 Honda for erratic driving near San Pablo and Gilman Avenues. The driver did not yield to the flashing lights on the patrol car so a second unit was called to assist. They arrested the driver, a 63-year-old Berkeley woman, for DUI. She was cited and released with a notice to appear.

**ANOTHER DUI** — At about 12:30 a.m., officers stopped an '01 Honda near San Pablo and Jones avenues that was observed speeding and driving erratically. The driver, a 21-year-

old Albany man, was found to be intoxicated and to have an outstanding warrant. He was cited for DUI and not having a driver's license and released with a notice to appear.

**STOLEN LAUNDRY** — At about 1 a.m., thieves stole clothes from an unlocked white '69 Volkswagen parked at a Laundromat on the 1200 block of Solano Avenue. The owner of the vehicle reported that while they were doing laundry, his girlfriend went back to the car and interrupted the two thieves, described as a male and a female. The thieves fled west on Solano with a bag of clothes and were gone when officers arrived.

**WALLET RECOVERED** — Officers received a report at about 6:45 p.m. that thieves had stolen a purse from a patron at the Albany Bowl on the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue. About an hour later a pedestrian found the wallet on San Pablo Avenue and turned it in to the Albany Police. The owner of the wallet was notified.

## Sunday, July 6

**SHOTS FIRED** — At about 1 a.m., a resident on the 900 block of Castro Street reported observing two subjects firing a firearm into the air toward the Albany Hill from the area of Castro and Jackson streets. Another resident on the block also called to report hearing shots fired. Officers responded and contacted two subjects matching the description. One of the pair, a 25-year-old Berkeley man, was arrested for discharging a firearm in a grossly negligent manner, possession of stolen property, carrying a loaded gun, drug possession charges and carrying a concealed weapon. He was transported to the Berkeley Jail. The second subject, a 27-year-old Albany man, was arrested for disorderly conduct, cited and released with a notice to appear.

**VEHICLE THEFT** — A resident on the 900 block of Key Route Boulevard

discovered that her white '02 Sienna had been stolen during the night. There were no witnesses.

**THEFT** — Unknown thieves stole an unlocked car parked near Marin Avenues and streets from inside. There were no witnesses. A search of the area located the owner's purse down the street.

**VEHICLE THEFT** — About an Albany resident reported that within the previous 20 minutes thieves had stolen his blue '97 Civic that was parked on the block of Kains Avenue. The witnesses.

## Monday, July 7

**THIEVES SPOTTED** — About 11-13 years old, with cornrows, wearing dark clothing, had their purse from inside her '97 Volkswagen while it was parked on the 1500 block of Solano Avenue. The thieves were last seen through Terrace Park and when officers arrived.

## Weekly summary

During the week of June 30, towed seven cars, responded to seven alarms, attended to five deceased animals, assisted one person who was locked out of their house or car and responded to a report of a barking dog. In the domestic arena, officers responded to three stand-bys for child abuse change, 21 civil disturbance calls and 33 warnings. Albany firefighters/paramedics responded to eight medical emergencies.

## EL CERRITO POLICE

## Friday, June 20

**VEHICLE BURGLARY** — A bag containing soccer clothing was taken from a 1991 Toyota Corolla on the 11700 block of San Pablo Avenue between 9 p.m. on June 20 and 6 a.m. the next day.

## Monday, June 23

**SHOPLIFTING** — A 38-year-old Richmond woman was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting at Albertsons at 10 p.m.

## Wednesday, June 25

**VEHICLE BURGLARY** — A 23-year-old Richmond man was arrested at 2:45 a.m. on the 6200 block of Cypress Avenue on suspicion of stealing property from vehicles. Police found the man in the backyard of a nearby home after responding to a report of an auto burglary in progress. Police also found the stolen property.

## Thursday, June 26

**BURGLARY** — A generator and two ladders were taken from an unsecured store site at El Cerrito Plaza between 4:30 p.m. on June 26 and 4 p.m. on June 29. Holes cut into the sheet-rock created an entryway.

## Friday, June 27

**VEHICLE BURGLARY** — A briefcase and eyeglasses were taken from a 1993 white Toyota on the 7900 block of Cutting Boulevard.

**BURGLARY** — Six computers worth a total of more than \$13,000 were taken from an office at El Cerrito Plaza between 1 p.m. on June 27 and 6:30 a.m. on June 29.

## Saturday, June 28

**VEHICLE BURGLARY** — Two dollars in coins were taken from a 1987 Toyota on the 1500 block of Elm Street between June 28 and the next day.

**VEHICLE THEFT** — A vehicle was taken from a carport on the 900 block of Lexington Avenue between 7:30 p.m. on June 28 and 8 a.m. the next day.

**VEHICLE THEFT** — A blue 1995 Honda Accord LX was taken from the 1200 block of Norvell Street between 10:15 p.m. on June 28 and 10 a.m. the next day.

## Sunday, June 29

**VEHICLE THEFT** — A blue 1986 Chevrolet Suburban was taken from Mound Street at Navellier Street between 7 p.m. on June 29 and 6:45 a.m. the next day.

**VEHICLE RECOVERY** — A white 1984 Toyota pickup truck, reported stolen from Richmond on May 28, was recovered on the 1000 block of Everett Street at 6:50 a.m.

## Monday, June 30

**VEHICLE RECOVERY** — A blue 1990 Ford Mustang, stolen from Berkeley, was recovered on the 900 block of King Drive at 11:35 p.m.

**SHOPLIFTING** — A 19-year-old

Richmond man was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting from Albertsons at 7 p.m.

**SHOPLIFTING** — A 32-year-old San Pablo woman was arrested at Target at 2:30 p.m. on suspicion of shoplifting.

## Tuesday, July 1

**VEHICLE THEFT ARREST** — A man was arrested on suspicion of stealing a 2002 Saturn while he was driving it on the 10800 block of San Pablo Avenue at 6:30 p.m. The vehicle was reported stolen to the Albany Police Department on June 3.

**ROBBERY** — An armed robber took \$949 from a business on the 10600 block of San Pablo Avenue at 9:45 p.m. The robber pointed a revolver at a cashier and demanded money from the cash register. He put the money in a laundry sack and ran eastbound on Mooser Lane. Police were unable to track down the gunman.

## Wednesday, July 2

**SHOPLIFTING** — A man attempted to shoplift \$100 in merchandise and fought store security after they attempted to detain him at Albertsons at 5:30 p.m. Store security

recovered the property but ran away.

**VEHICLE RECOVERY** — 1998 Honda Accord, reported from Richmond, was recovered from Kearney Street and Madison at 11:45 a.m.

**SHOPLIFTING** — A 48-year-old Oakland man was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting at Long's 7 p.m.

## Saturday, July 5

**SHOPLIFTING** — A 49-year-old Richmond man was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting at Target 7 p.m.

## CORRECTIONS

The Journal corrects significant factual errors to the editors' attention.

Reporters' and editors' numbers are listed on page 1.

To report an error, please contact the reporter responsible or the editor at 510-262-2724. Or e-mail [journals@cttimes.com](mailto:journals@cttimes.com).

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# Immigrant waves and charity going to the dogs

**S** LONGTIME READERS KNOW, one guy I admire a lot is George Vukasin, president of Oakland's Peerless Coffee Co., as head of the Coliseum mission during the good years before the politicians took over and ruined every-

day we were walking Webster Street in downtown Oakland, past a row of Cambodian and Chinese restaurants.

"See those?" said Vukasin, the family came from Yugoslavia. "When I was a kid, all used to be Yugoslav restaurants. We were the new immigrants then. Same people, different faces."

I thought of Vukasin last time I was sitting in George's Pie Shop in Albany. George's is a local institution: It's a home cooking made it. It's popovers instead of bread and throws birthday parties for its senior citizen customers. It's a little bit of America's right next door to Italy.

The restaurant was in the family for three generations until 1999, when Doug Dolly Walker sold it to the Sandoval.

George arrived in this country in 1982, a refugee from the violence in his native Guatemala. Shortly after he arrived, he got a job at Walker's as a bus boy. The years he worked his way up the ladder until he was in the kitchen as executive chef.

When I asked Doug why he left the place to Jorge instead of himself, he answered, "because he needs me of my grandfa-

ther and Vukasin were making the same point: Immigrants are fresh transfusions into our country's lifeblood. They help us in the future by reminding us of our roots and more importantly, who we came from: people who valued family, hard work, education and love of life.

George Buchanan is wrong to think that 150 years ago there were people like him who had their own Irish forbears. Look how wrong they were that.

On Monday, July 14, will be the 39th anniversary of George's. It's also George's 50th anniversary as owner. There are events to be cele-



MARTIN SNAPP  
Snapp Shots

brated.

If you haven't been back to Walker's for a while, rest assured: Nothing has changed. As George Vukasin would say, "Same people, different faces."

And, yes, they serve Peerless coffee.

■■■■

In other news, San Francisco has the Bay to Breakers, but only Berkeley has the Bay to Barkers.

I'm talking about a 1.3-mile dog walk this Sunday around César Chavez Park at the Berkeley Marina, followed by an all-day festival. KCBS anchor Al Hart will be master of ceremonies.

I'll be there, too, along with the Big Dogs Sportswear mascot; Dr. Ian Dunbar, founder of Sirius Puppy Training; and the K-9 Games. There will be agility games, doggy drill teams, pet supply booths and contests ranging from Best Human/Dog Lookalikes to Most Unusual Noise By A Dog.

Registration starts at 8:30 a.m.; the walk follows at 10. This is a major fund-raiser for the Berkeley/East Bay Humane Society, one of the best animal welfare organizations I know. They take such loving care of the dogs and cats in their shelter, the animals invariably turn out to be great pets.

Unhappily, the BEBHS has fallen on hard times lately through no fault of its own, as the economic recession has dried up donations. The staff have already slashed their own salaries to the bone, and then some. Now it's up to us to help.

Even if you can't join us Sunday, please call the BEBHS at 510-845-7735, ext. 19, and pledge a donation, donate your old car, or even send your left-over 5-cent BART tickets. You can also donate online at [www.berkeleyhumane.org](http://www.berkeleyhumane.org).

But I do hope you can join us. It's going to be a lot of fun, and for a great cause. See you there!

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or email [msnapp@cc-](mailto:msnapp@cc-)

# Nature film turns out to be not for the birds, after all

**O**UR SON didn't want to go see the birds movie. "The Birds" movie, yes — he would love to sit in the dark clutching his popcorn bag, inching closer to the edge of his seat while Tippi Hedren squirmed on hers outside the schoolhouse in Bodega Bay, unaware that behind her more than four and twenty blackbirds were fluttering on the jungle gym, not one of them safely baked away in a pie.

But this other birds movie, this "Winged Migration" — what, were we kidding? With his parents? On a Saturday night? Parker is 11, and I resisted the urge to ask if we were interrupting a date with Madonna.

The line at the Albany Twin backed up around the corner. Afloat on the tide of people flowing toward the theater just before showtime, we merged briefly with the family of one of Parker's classmates, and once inside, I noticed plenty of other kids in the audience. This fact



ROBERT MENZIMER  
Life is Like a Movie

did not impress Parker. He figured we had dragged him off to see "Schindler's List" in an aviary. He wasn't exactly going to be the telephone-wire crows in "Dumbo."

Except that it almost was, and more about that in a minute. First there was the show before the show. There we were, once again, part of the throngs at the theater, our arms outstretched like the mouths of baby birds straining above the nest and screaming for attention.

But we weren't calling out for mashed nightcrawler. We were trying to catch the eye, the arm (really, any body part would do), of Ben Putman, the irrepressible

manager of the Albany Twin, who was racing up and down the aisles, whooping like a crane and firing out candy bars, cookies, and other stuff I couldn't identify — maybe it was packets of bird seed. He does this every Saturday night and I don't know about your house, but it beats whatever is usually going on at ours.

Parker perked up during the sugar shower, but Ben was bound to run out of ammo sooner or later, and he did. So all that was left was the movie.

I won't bore you with an account of every frame — after all, I'm not a golfer. But I will say this. Imagine you're this bird with a long, rapier-like beak. Your job (and really, it's one of only two jobs you have) is to eat fish. The usual technique is to grab one out of the drink, toss it up, open your gullet, and, you know, down the hatch. Only this time, you've got a problem. You missed the hatch and now the poor fish is speared on your mouth, or your nose, whatever

that thing is. You're thinking how nice it would be to have hands, never mind opposable thumbs, but you don't. And here's the worst part: Those "Winged Migration" people are around, their camera is running, and it's pointed right at guess who.

Not for me to spoil the suspense by telling you how, or whether, this bird solves his problem. But it's not spoiling anything to tell you that the movie is full of this stuff, meaning lots of laughter. Plus astonishing mid-flight footage and a few poignant natural events, meaning films of mist over pre-adolescent (or older) eyes.

By the time it was over and we were filing out, Parker was done being grumpy. As we migrated up Solano Avenue toward home, I noticed he was walking under his mom's wing. "Well, it wasn't 'Matrix Reloaded,'" he announced. "But it wasn't bad."

Robert Menzimer is an Albany writer.

# Travels lead Susan Hall to path as artist

**W**HEN SUSAN HALL'S exhibition opens in the Albany Community Center's Foyer Gallery, on July 13, the foyer will be a burst of color and movement. Her show, "Near Places, Distant Lands," will exhibit paintings from the hills of Marrakech to the markets of Hawaii to a fishing boat in India, and points between.

Says Hall, in her "Artist's Statement": "I began my artistic reawakening by studying watercolor and oils in sunny Puerto Vallarta, Mexico — a warm and cheerful spot that has become my yearly winter retreat."

"What inspires me most," she adds, "is color, design and value contrasts. I am attracted by abstract organic patterns found in nature — aerial views of landscapes, silhouettes of figures, the graceful rounded shapes of rivers and streams or plant forms. And I am drawn to rich color combinations — bright tropical hues that I might find in a lively market or quaint village scene or even in the ornamental design of a tribal costume."



CLARA-RAE GENSER  
Community Folk

Her paintings show this interest, and as she travels widely she finds such inspiration in fascinating places throughout the world, as well as in her own back yard.

Susan Hall says she was interested in art even as a youngster. "While other kids were out playing, I was busy drawing." In college she studied art, taking classes in painting, jewelry making, ceramics, and dark room photography. But since she did not consider art a money-making career, she did not go into it seriously.

Susan was born in Florida in 1944, but has lived in California from 1949 on. The classes she did take seriously led to her working for a few years as a social worker, and then 25 years as a probation officer in Contra Costa County.

The work was so demanding and fulfilling she did not really think about art again until she retired. The artist in her was reawakened when she started to take her winter retreats in that lovely Mexican land.

Hall continues to take classes at Laney and Merritt colleges, where many of her fellow students are artists like herself, who use the studio space at the colleges and where they can mingle, exchange knowledge and experience, and critique each others work. She is especially grateful for the studio space since painting at home "You can put down drop clothes, and cover furniture, but you are sure to find a drop or two of paint on something when you finish."

In her travels Susan has

found she can purchase artifacts and hand crafts and bring them home to sell here. This has become something of a business for her, and she enjoys doing it.

Hall has exhibited in many other Bay Area sites, including the ProArts East Bay Open Studio in Oakland last month, Berkeley Holiday Open Studios, Kensington's Annual Festival of Arts, Café Galleria in Oakland, the annual shows at Merritt and Laney colleges, and in a Collective Exhibition in Puerto Vallarta.

The exhibit of Susan Hall's paintings will last from July 13 to October 12. On July 13 there will be an Opening Reception from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Community Center, 1247 Marin Ave..

The paintings will be for sale, and there will be price lists at the Center's reception desk. Susan Hall may be reached at [ebtz@aol.com](mailto:ebtz@aol.com), or by calling 510-524-7939.

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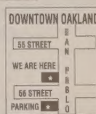
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# Summer, and the readin' is easy

note of the week:

There is a temperate zone in mind, between luxurious and exacting work; it is to this region, just between laziness and labor, that the reading belongs.

— Henry Ward Beecher, 1813-1887



**JULIE WINKELSTEIN**  
At the Library

AS SUMMER at the library and there is definitely a vacation feeling. Children and adults arrive at all times, in-1 of just after school, and are at the library for different reasons. Some have their summer reading list and, but most are there to use or to attend a program to play the summer reading game. Last summer, the Alameda County Library added a Teen Summer Reading Program, so there are two — one for older children and one for teens. This kind of program is offered at libraries all over the United States, with varying rules, formats and prizes. Children's game this year board game, with a spinner and a rubber stamp. Each 20 minutes of reading — or being 1 to — gets a spin and a chance to move closer to get a prize. The Teen Summer Reading Program includes a reading report, where readers keep track of their minutes read. There are prizes for 5 hours, 10 hours and 50 hours of reading. The summer reading programs are amazingly popular. Every day I watch little hands turning the spinner, looking for the right dinosaur on their board (this year the

theme is Dinosaur Island) and happily stamping the matching square. I'm learning a lot about dinosaurs, though there are two names I still can't pronounce, and I like asking the kids about the books they've read.

At the Contra Costa County libraries, the reading program is called "Wild About Reading," and it includes timed reading, a game board and prizes.

Summer is also the time for special library programs at most libraries. These include craft events and authors' nights and story times.

The Albany Library has "Read Me a Story," a drop-in story time for young children. Every afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m., teens are available to read books aloud and to help children play the summer reading game. I love seeing them sitting together on the couch in the children's area. It seems to me it so clearly represents what a library is about: books and reading and the shared pleasure of a book.

When I was a child, summer for me was reading as long and as much as I wanted. It was going to the library and coming home with my arms full of books or sitting in the aisle of the used book store, reading as fast as I could, so I wouldn't have to buy the book.

I was reminded of those summers last week as I was walking home and I noticed a large lizard, beautifully drawn on the sidewalk, with the name "Blue Belly" written next to it. I realized it must be the remnants of the yearly "Chocolate and Chalk Art Festival" in Berkeley and Albany. Those words, blue belly, immediately brought back memories of the heat of the Livermore summers and pleasure of gently holding my fingers and feeling its quick heartbeat, then taking one last look at that vivid blue streak before letting go. Lizards and books — those are my summer memories!

Today's book review is from Naomi and the book is Neil Gaiman's "American Gods." Naomi says this book is about "European Gods, disguised as ordinary people, and a hilarious and terrifying war with indigenous American gods of commerce." She recommends it because "it's funny, chilling and thought-provoking."

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at [jwinkelstein@ac-library.org](mailto:jwinkelstein@ac-library.org) or at the Albany Library.

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## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

"What's Under the Hood" is a free workshop at the **Albany Library** for teens who drive and is an opportunity to find out more about the workings of the cars they drive.

The workshop will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday in the parking lot behind the library. Sign-ups are being taken at the library's reference desk. Drivers must bring a car to the workshop.

For information call 510-526-3720, ext. 20. The Albany Library, a branch of the Alameda County Library, is at 1247 Marin Ave.

The El Cerrito Library invites you to join three local authors for a lively discussion about their writings on Tuesday, July 22 at 7 p.m.

Penny Warner is the author of the Connor Westphal series and recipient of the Macavity Award for Best First Mystery.

Simon Wood, originally from England, is the author of a suspense thriller, "Accidents Waiting to Happen."

Malinda Hall is the author of "Social Graces."

The library is at 6510 Stockton Ave. Information: 510-526-7512.

The El Cerrito Library Speaker Series presents Bay Area travel writer Carole Terwilliger Meyers Tuesday, Aug. 5 at 7 p.m.

Meyers is the author of "Weekend Adventures in Northern California," "Family Travel Guide," and "San Francisco Family Fun."

The El Cerrito Library is at 6510 Stockton Ave.

The Friends of the Richmond Public Library has launched a membership drive, and is asking residents to renew their existing membership or join the Friends for the membership year of July 2003-June 2004.

Categories of membership

are as follows: Individual \$20, Family \$35, Patron \$50 and Business/Organization \$100. Membership fees may be mailed to Friends of the Richmond Public Library, 325 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804. Checks should be made out to the Friends of the Richmond Public Library, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization.

For information call 510-620-6555.

As part of the Contra Costa County Library's summer reading program, Wild About Reading, the **Kensington Library** will present face painting with Leslie Arnold. With her expert help, kids can impersonate a Bengal tiger, a white tiger, elephant, giraffe or lion, Saturday from 2 to 3 p.m.

The Kensington Library is at 61 Arlington Ave. Phone: 510-524-3043.

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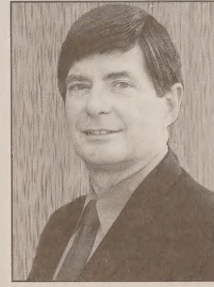
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# Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis. Mail submissions to: Ann Fields, 1969 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA 94611; e-mail to: afields@ccltimes.com or fax to 510-339-4066.

## Children

■ The Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., presents a new program, "What's Under the Hood," from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on July 12, in the parking lot behind the Albany Library. This free workshop is an opportunity for teens to find out more about what's under the hood of the car they drive. Sign-up at the Albany Library reference desk. Driver must bring a car to the workshop. For more information, call 510-526-3720 ext. 20.

■ A puppet show for children of all ages and their parents takes place at 2 p.m. July 19, at the Hall of Health, 2230 Shattuck Ave. The Kids on the Block, the award-winning educational puppet troupe, includes puppets from diverse cultural and puppet with such conditions as cerebral palsy, blindness, arthritis, Down syndrome, leukemia and spina bifida. The Hall of Health is a hands-on health museum and science center sponsored by Children's Hospital and Research Center at Oakland. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Suggestion donation: \$3. Children under 3 free. 510-549-1564.

■ The Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., presents "Read Me a story," a free drop-in program in which teens read picture books aloud to young children, age 3 and up. The program takes place 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Saturday through Aug. 16. 510-526-3720, ext. 20.

■ Lawrence Hall of Science presents the exhibit "Lego Ocean Adventure," through Sept. 7. The underwater world comes to life through role play and and-on-activities. Children learn how people eat, sleep, and work while living underwater as well as how scientists explore the ocean depths using unmanned rovers. Children can role play and construct their own Lego creations of underwater vessels and instrument. Hours: daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: \$8 adults; \$4 youth 5-18, seniors and disabled; \$4 for children 3-4; free under 3. Details: 510-642-5132.

■ Beginning Internet Workshops take place at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Learn the basics of the Internet—mouse skills, e-mail, web searching, and the library's on-line catalog and databases. Classes are free of charge. Alternate Saturday mornings from 10-11 a.m. 510-526-7512.

■ Children's Social Skills and Manners workshops are offered in Albany on Saturdays for two hours, 3 to 5 p.m. Each workshop lasts for four weeks. Details: Linda, 527-6202.

■ Teen Support Group meets twice a month Tuesday evenings at the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave. The free group is for teens who have a parent or caregiver with cancer. The meeting is co-facilitated by a teen whose mother had breast cancer. 531-7551.

■ Check out books from the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center Library. Spend quality time with your kids, meet with the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is at 1414 Walnut St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. 848-0237.

■ El Cerrito offers special programs for children from 22 months to 5 years of age. These programs are designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. The program for ages 22 months to 3-1/2 years meets Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Moeser Lane. 215-4371.

■ LGBTQ Parent and Prospective Parent Groups meet the first Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with concurrent child care at the Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley. Donations are requested, but not required. Details: familyprogram@yahoo.com or 415-789-8560.

■ The Ann Martin Children's Center offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers," sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. Details: 524-0821.

## Community

■ Berkeley Farmers' Market holds its annual Peach Tasting with chef cooking demonstrations, from 10 to 3 p.m. July 12, at Center Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way. 510-548-3333 or www.ecologycenter.org.

■ Berkeley Neighborhood Computers, a non-profit organization, provides high-value and high-demand computer technology training for disadvantaged and at-risk individuals. The organization seeks computers and networking equipment to be used for training purposes. All donations are tax deductible. 845-1226 or e-mail bnc@netvalue.net.

■ Berkeley Camera Club meet Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share slides and prints, learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Details: 525-3565.

■ TOPS (Take Pounds Off Sensibly) Chapter CA 1294 meets Thursdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Thursday at Mira Vista UCC Church, 7075 Cutting Blvd. TOPS is a non-profit organization assisting men and women in weight control. Betty Coates at 235-0490.

■ Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors Resume Clinics

on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment. For an appointment, leave a message several days before you would like to meet. Anne Levine has a background in design and education. Call 848-8730.

■ Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. Register: 644-8736.

■ Berkeley Art Museum, Pacific Film Archive offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design on alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. 642-0808.

■ Overeaters Anonymous meet Fridays at 1:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2—the child-care room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively. 525-5231.

■ Toastmasters, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for details.

■ Civil Rights activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington, P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA., 94701.

■ "Work Buddies"; volunteers needed to work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

## Exhibits

■ Oakland landscape artist Dean Holland continues his exhibition of 30 California and Western oil landscapes through July 31, at Alan Albright Gallery, 2988 Adeline. Gallery hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 11 to 4 p.m. 510-644-3025.

■ John F. Kennedy University Arts Annex, 2956 San Pablo Ave. (second floor) in Berkeley hosts "Patterns, a free MFA Graduate Exhibition" Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., July 21-31. A reception will be held July 26, 5-8 p.m. 510-649-0499.

■ El Cerrito presents Open Clay Studio ongoing classes on Mondays, 7-9 p.m. Experience with clay is helpful, but not necessary. Students will have chance to explore areas of clay work. Demonstrations and instruction provided on requests. Admission: \$7-50 residents, \$9-38 nonresidents. The location: Tassajara Pottery Center, 2575 Tassajara Boulevard. Details: Judie, 215-4371.

## Film/dance/stage

■ The 23rd San Francisco Jewish Film Festival takes place from July 26 to July 31 at UC Berkeley campus, Wheeler Auditorium. The festival presents more than 30 film and video offerings. For ticket information, call 925-275-9490 or visit www.sjffil.org.

■ Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut St., presents the film "Nasty Girl," from 2 to 4 p.m. July 13. A determined student tries to write an essay about her town's behavior during World War II. Anne Rossmus talks about her struggle to reveal the truth about the people of her Bavarian hometown of Passau and their behavior during the Third Reich. \$2 suggested

donation. Peer-led discussion follows the movie. 510-848-0237.

■ Learn easy international folk dances, fun for all ages at the Albany YMCA, 921 Kains Ave. No experience needed. Wear comfortable shoes and come prepared for a good time. Admission: Adults \$2, kids \$1. Details: 525-1130.

■ Family Folkdancing takes place the third Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz Music and Dance Community Center, 1317 San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise Schultz Weiss. Bring your feet and a spirit of fun. No experience necessary. An opportunity for families to dance and laugh together. Drop in for good fun and exercise. All ages welcome. Drop-in class, no registration needed. Adults \$3, children \$2. Details: 632-3713.

■ Swing Dance Classes! Learn East coast swing and Lindy Hop with Michael and Persephone of Shattage Dance Instruction, on Mondays at the Work Studio, 2586 Telegraph Ave. Beginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Classes run as a monthly series. Details: Michael Marangio at 528-7858.

■ Central Works Theater Ensemble continues its production of "The Wyrd Sisters," a comedy, through July 13, at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., and July 25 through Aug. 10, at the Thack House, 1695 18th St., San Francisco. Dinner is available in the Berkeley City Club Dining Room before the show on Thursdays and Saturdays. Theatre tickets: \$8-20 sliding scale. 510-558-1381. For dinner reservations call 510-848-7800.

## Health

■ Charcot Marie Tooth support group meets Saturdays bimonthly at West Berkeley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuro-pathic disorder. Details: 524-3506.

■ YWCA Health and Community Education; drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-6370; \$8 - \$10.

## Lecture/workshop

■ The Berkeley Camera Club meets every Tuesday evening, at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other

photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Don, 510-523-3565 or www.berkeleycameraclub.org.

■ Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center expanded its collection of contemporary fiction, nonfiction and children's books. Meet the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is open to the public. Hours: 11 and to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Details: 848-0237.

■ Tai Chi Chuan and Chi-kung classes take place at Berkeley Unitarian Church at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and 9 a.m. Saturday mornings at Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St. People of all ages and physical conditions are welcome to practice. Donation: \$65. 268-4995.

■ The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public as well as the different things that the center has to offer such as a great variety of workshops. They are held every Tuesday, at 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way. 848-6370.

■ Learn Computer Applications for the "working" world Using Windows '95 and '98 and Microsoft Office 2000 software, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Publisher. Class offered: Monday-Friday, 2:15 - 6:15 p.m. Location: Contra Costa County Office of Education, 13925 San Pablo Ave., Suite No. 111, San Pablo. 237-0840 or www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/rop.

■ "What is Meditation," is a peaceful and practical introduction to the basics of meditation. The free seminar takes place at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 2352 Shattuck Ave. Prigito Dove is the facilitator. Details: 644-0861.

■ Emotions Anonymous: Twelve-Step meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. Call 236-8226 for Berkeley location.

## Literary Events

■ Barnes & Noble 2352 Shattuck Ave., presents mystery authors Kurt Popke, Sue Owens Wright, and Kathleen Antrim at 7:30 p.m. July 15. The event is free. 510-644-0861

■ Storytelling for Adults, a group of storytellers, and listeners, who love to listen to stories, to keep the oral tradition alive, meet from 7 to 8:45 p.m. on the first Thursday each month at the Claremont Branch, Berkeley Public Library, 1940 Benvenue, at Ashby. Free. 610-644-6880; or 525-1533.

■ The Reading Edge is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2121 Alston Way. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability that requires its use to access print material. Users must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. Call at 644-6648 to set up a training session.

## Meetings/Lectures

■ Kol Hadash is the Bay area's only Jewish Humanistic Congregation, with more than 110 family members from Berkeley to Danville, Petaluma, San Francisco to Concord, and all communities in between. The group meet on the 4th Friday of each month for a regular Shabbat (Sabbath), every other month on a Saturday for a Family Shabbat. The group holds Sunday school classes two Sundays a month, celebrates all the major Jewish holidays and holds special events from time to time. Location: Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. 428-1492.

■ Beginning Internet Workshops take place at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Learn the basics of the Internet mouse skills, email, web

searching, and the library's on-line catalog and databases. Classes are free of charge. Alternate Saturday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. Call 510-526-7512 for details.

## Miscellaneous

■ The UC Berkeley Botanical Garden presents Twilight Tours with an expert horticulturist every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. through Aug. 13. Tours free for members, \$5 for non-members (including garden admission).

■ The University of California Extension presents Twilight Tours with an expert horticulturist every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. through Aug. 13. Free for members, \$5 for non-members (including garden admission). Fees are \$3 for adults, \$2 for children and UC Berkeley Alumni Association members. 510-643-2755 for registration.

■ Friendship Circle, a Jewish organization, older adults, meet 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at the Oakland Jewish Center, 200 Grand Ave. The outreach program of Berkeley Jewish Community Center includes day trips, Jewish celebrations, theater outings, dance, speaker and much more. Maria at 848-0237 ext. 115 for more information.

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# Tilden Park has ways to keep kids busy

URBAN YOUNGSTERS will have an opportunity to learn about the old-fashioned lifestyle during Farm Week sessions hosted at Little Farm at Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley.

Designed for kids ages 8-11, Farm Week sessions are scheduled for July 21 through August 11 through August 11. The fee is \$135 per young person, or \$149 for those who do not live within the Bay Regional Park District.

During Farm Week, the youngsters engage in activities designed to introduce them to life and food cycles, with emphasis on having an enjoyable learning experience. They perform chores such as gardening, goat grooming, collecting, and cow feeding. Other activities include band music, ice cream social, wool spinning and a hoe-down celebration.



**PARK IT**  
Ned MacKay

bration for parents and friends at week's end.

Farm Week hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Children must bring their own sack lunches, but healthy light morning and afternoon snacks are provided.

For information and registration, phone the park district reservations department at 510-636-1684.

## More Tilden events

Besides Farm Week, there are lots of other activities scheduled at the Tilden Nature Area in coming weeks.

For example, Naturalist Alan Kaplan will host "Tea at 4"

from 4:50 p.m. Monday, and on July 21, July 28 and Aug. 25. Participants can enjoy some of the best teas from the Pacific Rim and learn about their history, before taking a short nature walk. Registration is required so Alan will know how many are coming to tea.

There's a \$5 fee per session (\$7 for non-residents). Phone 510-525-2233.

Tilden also is organizing a kids' garden club, with sessions from 2-4 p.m. Saturdays, July 12, July 26, Aug. 2 and Aug. 23. It's for youngsters ages 7-12 to learn about gardening through activities such as leaf key making, constructing an outdoor fort and planting beans to grow and cover it, making butterfly trading cards, and cooking soup.

Registration is required for the Garden Club, and there's a \$3 fee per session. Phone 510-525-2233.

There's also a "mini-garden-

ers" program geared for youngsters ages 4-6, accompanied by adults, which will meet 2-3:30 p.m. Sundays, July 13 and Aug. 3. There will be a \$3 fee per session, and registration is required. Again, phone 510-525-2233.

For a free activity, drop by Tilden's Environmental Education Center 1-2 p.m. July 12 for "Turtle Time." You'll see some live turtles, and the kids can make a "pet" turtle model to take home.

Information on these programs and more is available online at the park district's Web site. Or visit the Environmental Education Center and pick up a schedule of events. It's at the north end of Central Park Drive in Tilden, accessible by way of Canon Drive from Grizzly Peak Boulevard in Berkeley.

Ned MacKay is the retired public information supervisor for the East Bay Regional Park District. If you have a question or comment for Ned, e-mail him at [nedmackay@attbi.com](mailto:nedmackay@attbi.com).

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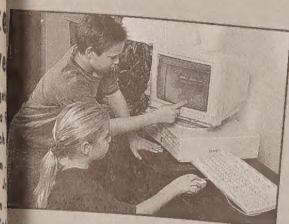
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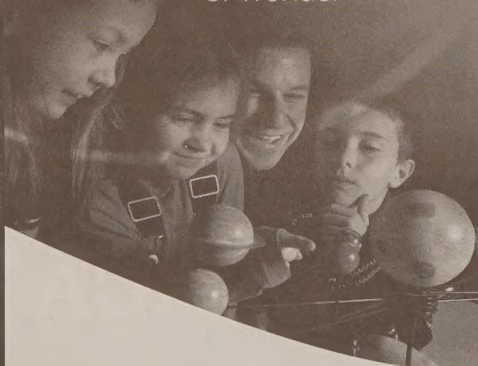
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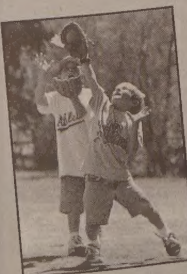
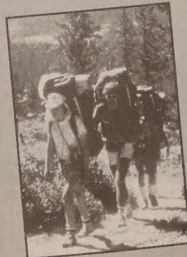
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ALBANY CITY COUNCIL ROUNDUP

Traffic calming desing funds approved

The city will spend \$19,500 for consultants Kimley Horn and Associates to complete design work for the city's initial traffic calming projects, scheduled to be implemented by this fall.

The traffic calming measures would be the first ones executed under a neighborhood-petition process. Community development director Ann Chaney said the projects could serve as prototypes for future traffic-calming plans.

The measures include: Relocating a stop sign, installing a center island and miscellaneous signing and striping modifications at Washington and Pomona avenues.

Expanding the size of a roadway island, installing a curb ramp and modifying striping at Santa Fe and Marin avenues.

Installing bulbouts (sidewalk extensions onto the street) at Curtis Street and Marin Avenue and modifying striping there.

Installing a traffic circle, two raised islands and related signing and striping at Ordway Street and Posen Avenue.

Removing three existing islands and installing three new islands, installing curb ramps, and miscellaneous signing and striping modifications at Santa Fe and

Pomona avenues. Installing curb ramps, three islands, and miscellaneous signing and striping at Santa Fe and Romona avenues.

Past by voters last November, Measure F is allowing the city to move forward with phase two of the plans. According to a city staff report, various neighborhoods were generally favorable to the traffic calming plans and the city's traffic and safety commission wanted to see the projects move forward.

In a resolution, the council unanimously authorized the contract with Kimley-Horn at its Monday, July 7 meeting.

Garbage contract will mean new services

Residents could see new garbage services and lowered rates under a contract the city is negotiating with Waste Management of Alameda County.

New services would include: giving residents wheeled carts for garbage collection, commingled recycling, and weekly yard and food waste collection; new and increased services for street litter cans and abandoned waste; and an annual electronic-waste pickup.

The new contract would eliminate the trash pick-up service

from the back or side yards, though that will likely continue at no cost for the frail or disabled.

"In a lot of ways it should be a lot easier, there should be a big improvement in organization and ease for residents," said community development associate Judy Lieberman.

Two residents said the City Council should put the contract up for competitive bids, which could potentially lower the costs for residents.

"The city and residents will all be better served if you go out to competitive bidding and let everyone have a shot at it," said El Cerrito resident Rich Bartke.

The council opted to approve a draft negotiated agreement between the city and WMAC at its July 7 meeting. Albany Chamber of Commerce executive director James Carter said WMAC's bid was more than competitive and the city should stick with a company that people are happy with.

The city began negotiating a new contract with waste management last year. The current contract expires Dec. 31, 2004.

On the whole, the new agreement could save residents 8.3 percent on the \$2.1 million cost of providing garbage collection.

The City Council could authorize the contract within a few months, though it's unclear when the services would begin.

Chess

FROM PAGE A1

playing with her bunnies, Fluffy, Tiny and Thumper; her hamster, Fuzzy; and her chickens, Bambi, Chuckle and Bootylicious.

"We used to have a parakeet," she said, "but we had to get rid of it because it kept biting my dad."

The Berkeley Chess School was founded in 1981 by former Irish Women's Chess Champion Elizabeth Shaughnessy, who started by volunteering to teach the game at her own children's elementary school.

"There was a great interest, as you can imagine in a university town like Berkeley," she said. "Seventy-two children showed up for the first class."

Today, the school teaches more than 5,000 children, from kindergarten through high school, in more than 140 public and private schools in Northern California. About 100 children such as Manoosh also attend its annual summer camp at the Hillside School in north Berkeley.

The teachers come from all walks of life, including a UPS driver, church custodian and bagel maker.

Like Little League and youth hockey, chess has its share of overbearing parents. "Oh my! I've seen parents at tournaments yell at their kids for making a mistake," says Manoosh's mother, Delicia Moghadam. "But not at the Berkeley Chess School. If anyone tried that here, the other parents would come down on them hard. How can kids learn if they're not allowed to make mistakes?"

The school even publishes a lengthy etiquette list of do's and don'ts. Among them: no trash

CHESS FOR KIDS

WHAT: The Berkeley Chess School Summer Camp

WHEN: Four one-week sessions are offered each summer, 1 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The last session starts Monday.

WHERE: Hillside School, 1581 LeRoy Ave. Camps are also held in Walnut Creek, Danville and San Francisco.

HOW MUCH: Price varies from \$150 for a week of instruction to \$495 for four weeks.

CALL: 510-843-0150 or visit [www.berkeleychessschool.org](http://www.berkeleychessschool.org).

Classes are held at four levels and include daily instruction and play, membership in the US Chess Federation, prizes and a T-Shirt that reads, "Just say chess."

talking, no intimidating, and players must shake hands before each game.

And these nice guys finish first. Every year, the Berkeley Chess School cleans up at the state championships. Last year they won virtually every age class, from Simion Kremer, David Petty, Sam Petty, Adam Baraz and Robert Ruiz, who won the High School Championship Division, to Austin Lloyd and Brian Hauffer, who won the Kindergarten Division.

Another student, Aviv Adler of Berkeley, was the person who stopped Grand Master Maurice Ashley's two-year winning streak when Ashley visited the Bay Area last year, holding him to a stunning stalemate at the tender age of 11.

Aviv, who plans to be an industrial engineer when he grows up, models his play on the late

Cuban champion Jose Capablanca. "He's pure logic," Aviv explained.

"I like Bobby Fischer," said Manoosh, who sees a chess scholarship as her ticket to college and medical school. "I like his strategy."

Their parents say chess has taught them important lessons beyond the game.

"It teaches them to focus and to think ahead," said Aviv's father, Ilan Adler. "It also teaches them to accept the consequences of their decisions."

Chess is still a male-dominated sport. Even in Berkeley, the boy/girl ratio at this year's summer camp is 4-to-1. But Manoosh says she doesn't get any hassles from the boys at the school. "They don't care if you're a boy or girl; all they care about is if you can play chess," she said.

But it's a different story when she goes to tournaments.

"Sometimes boys will try to intimidate me. They'll say, 'You're just a girl' or 'Girls can't play chess.'"

But she's developed an effective defense to such taunts. "I beat them."

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or [msnapp@octimes.com](mailto:msnapp@octimes.com).



A CROWD GATHERS at Cerrito Vista Park July 4 to enjoy the worldOne music festival.

Fair

FROM PAGE A1

Across the street at Portola, residents milled around political and nonprofit tables as well as vendor booths, while others danced to live big-band jazz.

"We like that it's both small-time America across the street and world music over here," said 49-year-old Peter Decrescenzo, who was sitting on a lawn chair with partner Holly Zimmerman on the grass at Cerrito Vista, waiting for the next performance to begin.

The El Cerrito Rotary Club has sponsored the celebration for nine years. It was the fifth year for the worldOne festival, organized by worldOneradio, a program on the West Contra Costa

School District's radio station, KECG.

Thirty-two businesses sponsored the events. Money raised by the Rotary is going to the El Cerrito Fire Department's Toys for Tots program, said Rotary member Jack Freethy.

The eclectic international dance and music acts at Cerrito Vista included local bluegrass combo the Whiskey brothers, Andean and Indian classical folk dance and more.

The Reggae Angels brought many sitting on the green grass to their feet and dancing to the music.

"It's a good vibe, everybody chilling, everyone's got their groove going on," said 28-year-old Richmond resident Josh Wagner, who was sitting on the grass with his 2-year-old daughter, Janese.

Across the street, relations including the city, Relation's Commission, Cerrito Historical Society of El Cerrito, Trees, Sanitary District, the Green Party and the El Cerrito Congress of Cans, provided information on their organizations or on coming projects.

The Portola side of the festival ended at 4 p.m., three hours earlier than the worldOne.

That was fine for Geary, who was pushing in a stroller on the Portola side. She spent the day good food and seeing her said.

"We've been here a long time, now we're exhausted, but it's good to go home," Geary said.

Approval

FROM PAGE A1

Because of how it is situated - sandwiched between several buildings and railroad tracks on a weedy patch of Eastshore Highway - it was difficult to find a user to do anything with the blighted property, said Denise Pinkston, a partner of TMG Albany Associates LP, which owns the site.

The collapse in the office market killed a plan to build an office complex there in 2001.

Many believed a Target store was the perfect solution to upgrade the property and give the city a steady infusion of new sales tax dollars.

Agency member Peggy Thomsen said the store's advantages would make up for any problems.

"I thought that area needed to be developed for a long time and in fact that's one thing I've talked when I ran for office eight years

ago," Thomsen said. "I think the project is a real plus for the city."

By a 5-0 vote, the agency agreed and passed an addendum to the Cleveland Avenue/Eastshore Highway Redevelopment plan final Environmental Impact Report Addendum, a conditional use permit and approved the project's design, at its Monday, July 7 meeting.

The project will be comprised of a 164,865-square-foot Target store plus an 8,000-square-foot

garden center on a 10,200-square-foot site.

"One thing I've learned studying the project is to avoid going to Target," agency member Allan added. The store will be a "valuable asset" to the city, other people will too. If people will find a way to traffic situation workable,

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-3578 or at [alopez1@octimes.com](mailto:alopez1@octimes.com).

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# Real Estate & Home

Friday supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclair, The Piedmont

Friday, July 11 2003

Section B

## In a different world: Selling a house in London

Judith Glass of the Glass-McGlashan team recently met with Andrea McGlashan, a London agent (as Realtors are in England) to learn how she could go about buying or selling a home in London.

comparing real estate practices between California and England similarities are few and differences are many!

In her first interview with Anderson, she conducted an afternoon of the light-filled atrium of the Collection in Manchester. Judith found English real estate from the listing side.

Judith Glass: As a Realtor, you are very well within the London real estate community, as you assisted Americans in finding a place to live. However, I think we will find the process of buying and selling in London very different.

Let's start with selling. A British Englishman appears in the office on Marylebone Lane, tells you he wants to sell his house. What happens next?

Judith Glass: Well, obviously the first thing we do is go to the property to see it. We give the seller a ball park price of what he realistically could get. Following that, we do our work with other agents.

Judith Glass: When you say "work with other agents," do you mean?

Judith Glass: Right. We wouldn't bring other agents into the property itself, we bring them and describe the property. We would say "we have a house and lower ground flat apartment with the entrance main floor and the bed-

rooms below) in Upper Montagu Street with three beds, two baths, two receptions (living rooms) and have you sold anything similar to that in Upper Montagu in the last six months?" They might say, "Right, we sold #12 Upper Montagu for 1 million pounds." Then we can go back to the seller with that information.

Judith Glass: Herein lies a huge and striking difference! In the Bay Area, we have the Multiple Listing Service (MLS.) As a Realtor, I can quickly check the public record whatsoever to tell you what each property has sold for.



JUDITH GLASS & SHEILA SABINE  
House Talk

owner's home, and they are living in it, it's a very delicate situation. We can make recommendations, but we're definitely not up to par like you are in the States. I am

aware that you and your real estate partner provide your sellers with complimentary staging services down to the last detail including fresh flowers.

Here, our sellers don't even make their beds! If you saw how some English people show their homes, you would never believe they are actually the sellers! They may tell us that "the cleaners come on Wednesday, so try to organize your showing appointments then!"

Judith Glass: Along with our MLS, we use a secure lockbox system providing licensed agents easy access to show the property. Do you get a key to the properties?

Andrea McGlashan: We have nothing like a lockbox system and I cannot tell you how much time we waste collecting keys — and then returning them within the hour! It's a scheduling nightmare!

Judith Glass: What do you offer your sellers in terms of advertising here in London?

Andrea McGlashan: If it's an

computer for recent sales prices; almost every sale is recorded, and is a matter of public record.

Andrea McGlashan: In London, there is absolutely no public record whatsoever to tell you what each property has sold for. You have to rely on other estate agents, and you must rely on good relationships with your fellow agents; an agent you don't know or haven't worked with in the past may not be prepared to disclose what their client sold a house for. It could simply be a matter of privacy on behalf of the client.

Judith Glass: Back in my real estate world, my partner and I work very closely with sellers to prepare their homes to look their best before showing them to the general public. Do you offer such a service?

Andrea McGlashan: If it's an

### Real Estate Spotlight:

## Half-timbered English-style home on 1/3 acre



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Listing agent: Noll Davis, Wells and Bennett, 510-531-7000, ext. 263.

## Daydreaming about a different life

■ A real estate Walter Mitty explains her fascination with Open Houses

BY JULIA PRODIS SULEK  
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

"I'll take my coffee on the master suite balcony," I say. Emerging from my sunken tub (with jets), I grab my robe (size small), hanging neatly in the ample walk-in closet (with built-ins). As I lean against the wrought-iron railing overlooking the back garden, the warm sun dries my hair, tinting it a natural blond.

I am pampered, organized, relaxed.

Wait a minute. This is not my house. This is not my life. This is an Open House, with a For Sale sign in front. I have no intention of buying this house or any other. But I am an Open House addict, on the circuit Saturday 1-4 or Sunday 2-5.

My home is supposed to be my sanctuary. But sometimes, on a weekend afternoon, I find a stand-in. When I take off my shoes at a stranger's stoop and wander from room to room, I become the Walter Mitty of real es-

tate. I daydream that somehow, in this particular space — a paneled study here, a workout room there — my life would be different. It would be different. More content maybe, more creative definitely, thinner absolutely, if only.

In real life, my house is 65 years old and has a master bedroom with two tiny closets and a bathroom off the hall with a broken shower. I'm a mother of two preschoolers who have their own rooms, only one of which we've

See OPEN, Page B2

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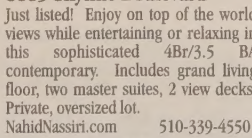


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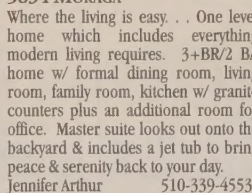
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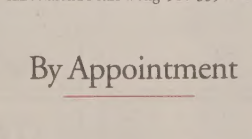
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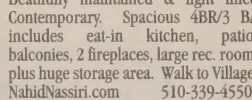
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IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING A MOVE, PLEASE CALL US!



# Berkeley: long ago and far away, yet so close

Number 433 in a series of true experiences in real estate

Going to Jerry and Elizabeth's house is, it seems to me, the best of old Berkeley. We settle down on the front porch with them and their two large dogs. There's almost always someone visiting, sometimes a grandchild, there for the afternoon with her own family dog, or a neighbor, or friend come by for conversation.

Elizabeth's flowers grow up and around the trellised porch, and there are wooden tables with oilcloth covers and wooden chairs, and everyone is smiling, glad to see us, glad to be alive. Elizabeth offers a plate of molasses cookies and glasses of juice. The visitors all say hello, offer their names, and it somehow seems as if we've known one another for half a lifetime.

I feel like I'm in the Berkeley I remember, as I lived it long ago. I had forgotten, but I am so very pleased to be reminded. Elizabeth and Jerry have been in Berkeley a long time and, it occurs to me frequently when I am at their house, that they probably know all the good people I have known here. We haven't compared friend lists — no time — but I wouldn't be surprised to find any of my old friends on Elizabeth and Jerry's front porch.

I knew Jerry and Elizabeth in those old days, 30 years ago. I sold them this same property but haven't seen them in all that time. We'd met when they were tenants in the front house — one of two houses on the same lot. I had gone to look at the property when it was for sale, and when I got there, Jerry told me that he was interested in buying, asked if I would write an offer for him.

In those earlier days of real estate, we didn't have the same sort of concentrated contact with clients that we have today. Transactions were simpler (only a one page contract) and there were no disclosures or inspections to do and talk over. I met them, I wrote the offer, they bought, and probably we were together only a few times.

They lived in the front house, rented out the back, and raised four kids. When they no longer needed the spaciousness of the big house, they remodeled the smaller cottage in back and moved in. Then it occurred to them that they might make the

property into condos and sell the one they were no longer living in to someone else.

Which is just what they did. They formed a condo association, had a site plan drawn, got the approvals they needed, and filed the necessary papers. And when they were ready to sell, serendipitously, a friend suggested that they contact Anet and me.

It wasn't until we pulled up in front of their property to find Jerry standing on the sidewalk that I remembered. "I sold you this property," I told him, and he said, "but that wasn't your name — what was it then? It was a long time ago."

Jerry led us then through the gate and along the path with pink and cream and white roses climbing everywhere to the back house where Elizabeth was waiting. We sat and talked about our marriages and kids and lives since we had last seen one another, and they told us about their plan to sell the big house.

There are in Berkeley quite a few "stand-alone condos" — unconnected houses that share the same lot but are owned separately. Condo owners have specific areas designated for their exclusive use, the house they live in plus, usually, certain outdoor areas. There may also be areas that are shared between them, such as driveways and paths.

Each owner has his own loan, property tax bill and homeowner's insurance policy. There is usually a blanket liability policy for the entire property, the cost of which is shared. Often the owners pay into a fund every month to cover the expenses of repair and maintenance for the commonly owned portions of the property.

During the several months prior to selling, we visited and talked frequently with Jerry and Elizabeth, followed the progress of repairs and cosmetic improvements. The house was almost entirely newly painted in soft and clean colors that Elizabeth chose. She studied color palates, brought home dozens of quilts, put up samples on the walls, and was fretting over her decisions when the painting crew showed up to work.

The old oak floors were refinished and the fireplace beautifully rebuilt. Jerry hired people to newly grout the large shower, had



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the gas stove griddle re-chromed, put up a better side fence, and some roof work was done.

When all was looking fresh and clean, Elizabeth did her own staging, something she'd never done in a house about to be sold, and she did it splendidly. It is a good and beautiful house, and it couldn't have looked better.

The sale went well. We had big open houses, one for agents, another for the public. While many people expressed surprise, even confusion, that this house could possibly be a condo (it just doesn't fit most people's idea of a condo), others understood, asked questions, embraced the looks, space and feeling of the place. There were two offers to buy it.

Both the would-be buyers and Jerry and Elizabeth wanted to meet before they were committed. They were interested in finding compatibility. We all wish, of course, for good neighbors, but in this case, the immediate neighbors would share the same land and would be partners in ownership.

These meetings went well, an offer to buy was accepted, and now, six weeks later the sale was completed. Elizabeth cooked up a party (for several days in a row, during very hot weather, Elizabeth cooked) to celebrate. The buyers and their agent were there, all of the workmen were invited, neighbors and some friends came. We sat on the wooden front porch on a pleasantly warm Sunday afternoon, and we enjoyed.

There were four dogs at our feet and a child toddling between open hands. Pimm's Cup was ladled from a large bowl into glass cups for us, the food was ravishingly good, the flowers in bloom around us and over us, and it was as if we had all long been warm friends.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpo are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and at [www.tarpoffandtalbort.com](http://www.tarpoffandtalbort.com).

## Open

FROM PAGE B1

fixed up so far. My day often begins in a rush with a handful of Frosted Flakes and a squirt of Clairol's "Touch of Sun" to lighten my roots.

My husband and I bought our home in San Jose in 1999. The house had Sunset magazine's singular requirement for true California living — a kitchen overlooking the back yard, with ready access to a barbecue. It didn't seem to matter at the time that the kitchen was a 1970s remodel with heavily grained, dark oak cabinets and countertops made of fake butcher-block laminate.

But a house in need of updating gave me an excuse to hit the open-house trail, and I've been on it ever since. June is an especially busy one for real estate and there's a brigade of us out there now "just looking."

We greet each other with that same shameful nod, as if caught peeking in someone's medicine cabinet. Some people mutter excuses to snoop into other people's lives: This one's friend is thinking of buying a house, that one's sister is moving to town. Some enjoy sizing up the crystal in the china hutch, checking the Viking range to see if it has actually been used and taking note of the size 8 sweater on the closet hook.

Others seem to be conducting serious market research: The value of their own homes can be gauged by comparing the features of a neighbor's house. And a remodeling project is always reason enough to arrive armed with camera and measuring tape.

While scores of people traipse through open houses each weekend, Realtors guess that about half of them aren't serious shoppers. It took me years to look eager Realtors in the eye and admit with confidence that no, I am not in the market for a house.

We open-house addicts call ourselves "looky-loos."

I used to think we were essentially just a bunch of nosy neighbors. But I've come to realize that the roots of this fixation are deeper than voyeurism or market research. The fascination comes from the way a house both reflects and defines a person's identity.

There is an endless pool of products that people choose to express their identities — the single guy in his Porsche Boxster, the teenager with a nose ring, the couple with their climate-controlled wine cooler.

But nothing speaks as loudly as a house. And nothing has the

power to shape an identity the way a home does. A wall of windows overlooking a courtyard of a Carmel open house makes me imagine myself a famous novelist with a salon of literary friends who drive down to Napa for inspiration and a cosmo. A curving stairway in the grand entry of a

I study before-and-after plans with the fervor of a crossword watch HGTV.

I may seem obsessed, but let's face it: Owning a classic American Dream federal government tax breaks once we buy

We indulge in a litany of real-estate-related preoccupations, (among them) subscribing to House and Garden, Home and Sunset magazines and reading the real estate transactions in the newspaper for the prices of homes sold in our neighborhoods.

San Jose house makes me imagine my daughter descending it on prom night.

My delusions are not unlike those of the main character in James Thurber's "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," who imagines that instead of being a browbeaten husband, he has other identities — he is, at heart, a heroic fighter pilot, a famous life-saving surgeon, a debonair sharpshooter.

Now I'm not saying I could necessarily win a Pulitzer Prize if I lived in this house. But for better or worse, my obsession has given me vision. I can see not only what a house is, but what it can become.

Is it so hard to believe that living in a great space can be not only truly inspiring but also life-transforming? Maybe I picked up that romantic notion from my father, an architect, from whom I learned to appreciate natural light, open spaces, flow. Or from spending a summer as a tour guide at Hearst Castle, where I watched the sun sink into the Pacific from the Celestial Suite.

But thousands of people have read Frances Mayes' "Under the Tuscan Sun" and become convinced, as I did, that the greatest dinner parties are only a remodel away.

So we indulge in a litany of real-estate-related preoccupations: subscribing to House and Garden, Home and Sunset magazines; reading the real estate transactions in the newspaper for the prices of homes sold in our neighborhoods; and joining 1,500 others paying \$30 each to get a glimpse of soccer star Brandi Chastain's pool table in her formal living room.

owner who has ignored the rule of spending no more than a quarter of one's income on a mortgage and has less than a \$500,000 net worth. We have a Depot credit cards.

Here in the Golden State, I grew up believing that cars are convertibles and houses have views. One can't help but define oneself by how close we come to a can't buy the best house to improve the ones we own.

I do love my house. Large bedrooms, the porch, the hardwood kitchen needed when my husband left the old electric stove wrapped his arms around it. "Will we be having a new kitchen?" know what to say.

Well, we have a new one. And, in fact, we've had some fabulous dinner parties. Yes, instead of the wanted, we have lived while I love our lives. It is tile, not slab.

But when we stand on the new Viking range with sanded griddle, my husband just the same as has. And the kids still love Frosted Flakes.

Now if only I had a tub (with jets).

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# Architecturally correct' renovations

One of three parts or selling scores of historic houses as a Realtor, I bought my historic house in Berkeley. I determined to renovate the in an architecturally accurate way. I wanted to avoid the mistakes I had seen homeowners make in retiling and upgrading an older house. In the next three columns, I listed some of the right, wrong ways, to renovate a house. I jokingly call the series of using historically appropriate materials and details be "architecturally correct."

The concept is not new, even phrase is. In the late 1970s, Oakland Planning Department issued a paperback guide free city residents called "Rehab" (It was still in print a year ago, the last time I read it).

Well-illustrated laymen's to restoring and remodeling houses helped hundreds of Bay residents understand using aluminum frame windows in place of wooden ones, or painting over the fish scale shingles on a Victorian-era cottage or "architecturally correct," would lower both the aesthetic and the market value of a historic house.

If you are not certain of what might be the appropriate materials or details to use in a remodeling of a historic house, you should consult with an experienced expert, such as an architect, an interior designer, or an architectural historian. Then, before you begin, you should be clear about your ultimate goals.

So some definitions are in order here.

A restoration of a historic house is when an owner decides to reproduce as much of the original design, including the floor plan and details, as possible. Even then, there are almost always some features of an older house that the most conscientious owner will find necessary to update, such as some of the bathroom fixtures, or the entire kitchen.

A remodeling of a historic home means that the owner has decided not to try to recreate most of the original features. Instead, a new floor plan, new materials, new interior architectural features, and perhaps an addition, (usually without regard to their historic authenticity), is the end result of a remodeling job.

A historic renovation is somewhere in between these two approaches. In this type of project, the owner will upgrade or alter part of a historic home's interior in order to meet the practical needs of modern living, or their own lifestyle priorities, but still take care to use historically appropriate materials and features, while maintaining many of the original features. That's why I call the end results "architecturally correct."

A good example of an architecturally correct renovation of a historic house, in which I played a role, is the Gifford McGrew House at Derby and Hillegass in Berkeley. This three-story home was

designed by Bernard Maybeck in 1900. When I listed it for sale in the late 1980s, the interior had hardly been altered by any of its later owners since it was built. Therein lay the problem of why it had not sold with two previous agents.

"This historic home had about 3,600 square feet of living space, eight bedrooms, and only one, tiny bath on the ground floor! Also, the master bedroom suite was in the attic area, with no bathroom and no window at the front to take advantage of the great bay views.

After several weeks on the market with no offer, the owner decided to take it off the market for awhile to make a few renovations. He added a full bath on the second floor, and one in the attic level master suite.

Then with the blessing of the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association and Jacquema Maybeck (Bernard Maybeck's daughter-in-law), he installed a large picture window in the attic, but with appropriate period details, including wooden latching and shingles.

When these renovations were completed, Jacquema commented "I'm sure that Bernard would have approved."

In next week's column, I'll discuss some of the challenges and solutions I found in the "architecturally correct" renovation of my own historic Berkeley home.

Mark A. Wilson can be reached at 510-273-9383 or by e-mail at MarkW@aol.com.



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258 Alvarado - View of Oakland (Berkeley mailing address)

## London

PAGE B1

Andrea McGlashan: The London Property News is the nearest England has to a Multiple Listing Service. It comes out on a monthly basis. We also use the Sunday Times, and I find it is an excellent reference.

Edith Glass: Who pays for advertising?

Andrea McGlashan: On our agency pays, but that is a normal practice.

Edith Glass: In California, the strongest exposures are provided for our sellers are the Bay Area Open Houses. I haven't seen many of those here in London.

Andrea McGlashan: Our agency is one of the few that has Bay Area Open Houses — I recommend to a seller that we put an ad in the Sunday Times, suggesting "Sunday Open - View Today" and a lot of people do come for a look. However, this is not a common practice here, and most agents do not work weekends — or in the morning.

Edith Glass: As you know, there is a huge difference between England and the States. Most of the working U.S. agents work five days a week!

Andrea McGlashan: (Laughs) It's definitely a big difference.

Edith Glass: What happens if properties don't sell?

Andrea McGlashan: Here, the scenario is similar to the States. Sellers have to either lower the price, or take the property off the market, or (and this is a difference) the property can be offered at auction. Auctions are held all over London on a monthly basis. A lot of investors buy at auction. Occasionally, a seller will be surprised; two or more bidders will bid a property up to a higher than the original market price!

Edith Glass: In our earlier discussions, we've identified several differences. In England, we can sell real estate; in California, we as agents have to have a real estate exam and keep licenses current — our fingers are even on file! English agents have nothing like professional indemnity insurance; in California, every agent must carry errors and omissions insurance. And regarding the duties of sellers — in England, there's no requirement; in California, our sellers must do everything from a leaky toilet to a squeaky door!

Andrea McGlashan: And we understand you have real estate agents in the U.S. which is not the case in England.

Edith Glass: Andrea McGlashan, it is great to talk with you. When next we meet, we're going to discuss the details of property in London and of the wonderful world of importing.

Andrea McGlashan: I look forward to that!

Andrea McGlashan: You're moving to London, and McGlashan can help. From the phone 011 44 207 486 6711 call info@mcglashans.co.uk.

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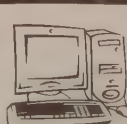
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## Laurie Capitelli named Red Oak Realty partner

RED OAK REALTY

Red Oak Realty announced that Laurie Capitelli, long time Realtor and sales manager with Red Oak Realty, has joined Peter Campbell, Patrick Leaper, and Bob Blumberg as a partner in the 27-year-old firm.

Capitelli entered the real estate profession at Red Oak Realty in 1978 after completing an 8-year teaching career. His quick mind, good humor, and natural empathy helped him to quickly become one of the firm's top producers.

Although predominantly concentrating in residential sales, Capitelli has had his hand in many aspects of the real estate business, including construction, commercial and investment real estate, and condominium development. He was a publisher for a real estate newspaper.

In addition to serving as president of the Berkeley Public Education Foundation, he is active in the Berkeley Association of Realtors and has served as its president. He was twice named Realtor of the Year by that association.



LAURIE CAPITELLI

In 1998, he became general sales manager for Red Oak. Since his appointment, the number of sales associates with the firm has doubled to 81 and the company has added two additional offices, on College Avenue in Berkeley's Elmwood district, and in November of last year the Pleasant Valley/Broadway office in Oakland.

Red Oak Realty serves Berkeley, Oakland, and the surrounding communities. Capitelli can be reached at 510-280-2124.

## Use caution before deciding whether to hand over ho

BY AVRUM D. LANK  
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

MILWAUKEE — As a possession, a home is a peculiar thing. It is much, if not most, of many people's financial net worth, but it also represents a large part of their emotional capital. Often, memories pack rooms more densely than clothing fills closets.

Changing the ownership of a house, either through gift or sale, thus becomes a difficult, complicated thing.

Yet as people become older, many decide they want to give their house to their kids, either to make sure it is disposed of as they wish or to avoid a forced sale to fund nursing home care.

Doing so can be as easy as signing over a deed, but that is the wrong approach, experts say. Even without considering the pesky factor of human relations, a thicket of tax laws and government regulations are involved.

"It would be a challenge to take this particular issue and turn it into computer-based decision software," said Doug Blegen, a Wisconsin attorney who specializes in real estate matters. "I don't think you would come up with the right answer very often."

Most often, people want to give their home away to make sure it does not have to be sold to pay for nursing home care. Before a person is eligible for Title 19 govern-

ment use most of their own assets, putting their home at risk. Rules vary among states, but in most states the government may even go after property in an estate to be reimbursed for money it spent on nursing home fees.

That often can be avoided with proper planning, said Timothy P. Crawford, a Wisconsin attorney who specializes in such matters.

The government provides several legal ways around the problem, so people should take advantage of them, he said.

"You have paid your taxes in (to fund Title 19)," he argues, so there is no reason to pass up the opportunity to use the program.

Pat Nelson, a Wisconsin lawyer who specializes in issues of the elderly and disabled, takes a different view of giving away a house:

"I try to talk people out of it," she said. "I always urge people to be selfish, that the primary use of their assets is for them if they need it. And for most people, the house is their primary asset."

Then there is the question of who gets the house.

In cases where one spouse is going into a nursing home and the other is not, special rules apply about the value of the house when asking for Title 19 assistance. Planning can be used to take advantage of them.

However, where a parent wants to transfer a house to a child or children, the situation is more compli-

cated. One thing to consider is making sure the parent can remain in the house as long as he or she likes, even if it is owned by a child. This is relatively easy to accomplish legally and should be considered for a number of reasons.

For example, "the son may have a creditor who wonders if he should foreclose on this piece of real estate that incidentally mom is still living in," Blegen said. If the child gets a divorce, other problems can occur as property is valued for a settlement.

And then there is the question of people with more than one child. If the house is given to all of them, such dangers are multiplied, and an ultimate sale becomes more difficult. But if the house is given to only one child, then the parent must make a difficult choice and decide how, or if, to deal financially with the other children.

"Not every family is appropriate for Title 19 planning," Crawford said. "But most parents know their kids."

Beyond nursing home concerns, some people want to give their home away to avoid having it in their estate.

That can be an appropriate decision as part of a larger plan, said Stephanie G. Rapkin, a lawyer who has written articles on the subject.

Among other things, if a person gives a home away but continues to live in it, some tax breaks are lost. In particular, the new owner cannot claim the capital gains exemption of \$250,000 (\$500,000 for a mar-

ried couple) available to sell a home they have owned for two of the five prior years.

Furthermore, by giving a house out of an estate, it gives up the ability to pass for capital gains stepped up to its value at his or her death.

That can result in a necessary capital gain tax on their heirs.

Estate tax exemptions are generous. At the moment, less than \$1 million in federal purposes. The \$3.5 million in 2009 estate tax disappears in 2010. In 2011, the federal limit will return to \$1 million. Congress changes the meantime.

However, spouses each other an unlimited effect doubling the exemption for a married couple that amount of planning.

So giving away a home for tax purposes "may be very well-to-do people," said. "It doesn't make for (couples) with \$2 million today." Beyond the issues, emotions also are involved.

Convincing an older person to give up his or her home is trying to get your 88-year-old mother to hand over her house, Blegen said. She knows it is a piece of freedom.

## Despite the economy: Those baby boomers are fueling luxury-home market

BY STEVE KERCH  
CBS MARKETWATCH

CHICAGO — Upper bracket. Those two words on a real estate advertisement signal one thing for sure: If you have to ask the price, you can't afford it.

Across most of the United States, even in a soft economy, there are still a lot of people who don't have to ask.

"In high-end, luxury living, we've found that if you have the right site, the right location, regardless of the economic conditions you are going to sell that property," said George Page, president of the Tower Division of luxury homebuilder WCI Communities.

The definition of what constitutes a luxury home differs by location.

In Youngstown, Ohio, \$550,000 will buy you a four-bedroom, five-bath, 4,500-square-foot home on better than a 100,000-square foot spread. In Yorba Linda, the same money will get you a four-bedroom, three-bath, 2,300-square-foot house on a 7,500-square-foot lot.

Yet both might be considered luxury housing.

"Luxury is no longer a matter of price, but of choice," said Mark Farahar, a custom homebuilder in Chicago's suburbs. "Luxury doesn't mean size any more, either, but luxury appointments. You don't have to have a 5,000-square-foot house to say you live in luxury. A 2,500-square-foot home that's very well appointed will do."

Luxury Homes and Properties insists that upper-bracket listings on its Web site, [www.luxuryhomesandproperties.com](http://www.luxuryhomesandproperties.com) be at least twice as expensive as the average home on the market in any given area. But the site is not persnickety about the type of property it considers luxurious: estates, mansions, castles, villas, log homes, seaside homes and international real estate all qualify.

No matter how you define the market, it is growing. Aging baby boomers, in particular, are driving sales of everything from chic downtown condos to custom suburban homes as the bulk of the generation enters its peak earning years at the same time it cashes in on massive home equity and sizable inheritances.

"Today every boomer either is or shortly will reach the empty-nesting life stage. This life stage marks a dramatic shift in consumer spending, away from needs-driven purchases for home and family and more spending devoted to personal luxuries," said Pam Danziger, president of Stevens, Pa.-based Unity Marketing.

That drive includes not just the houses themselves, but the cars, jewelry and clothes that go in them as well as the gardens, pools and patios outside.

"It's a unique phenomenon and how long it will last is the question," said David Hoffman, chairman of Red Seal Development Corp. in

Northbrook, Ill. "But there is a tremendous reshuffling of where people are investing. They're asking 'Should I invest in the market or something more concrete?'"

And, over time, houses and the land they sit on have proven to be good investments. That's especially true, Hoffman notes, for property in the best locations, which often defines a luxury setting.

"It's not people saying they're going to turn this over in two years and make \$200,000. It's people saying 'Where I place value on my security is in my house.' It's psychological. It's a quality-of-life issue and it's not going to dwindle soon," Hoffman said.

And while price may not be an obstacle for many in the luxury-home market, those buying expensive homes are benefiting every bit as much from today's 45-year-low interest rates as other buyers.

"Historically, low interest rates make high-end homes very affordable," said Katherine Auguste-Wilde, chief operating officer of First Republic Bank, which tracks luxury housing in California. "Buyers are attracted to the low carrying costs, realizing that even if prices decline somewhat, increased interest rates could make their desired home much less affordable."

The upper-bracket market in Los Angeles, home base for Hollywood stars and entertainment moguls, has been especially strong, according to the bank's most recent

luxury-market index. Prices of homes over \$1 million rose more than 11 percent in the first quarter vs. a year ago, and are up 4.5 percent since the start of the year.

Which way to the beach? "Malibu has gone into the stratosphere," said Alan Mark, of Alan and Tony Mark Prudential Malibu Realty. "We have a limited amount of beachfront property, and this is a terrific place to live. Our entry-level housing is pushing \$1 million, and apartments, condos and beachfront properties are at levels we've never seen before."

Malibu prices also are rising because buyers in Los Angeles are purchasing second homes in the area. "I don't see it slowing down. We may have fewer sales because there is less product, not lack of demand," Mark said.

The luxury-home market isn't just about those who can afford to buy the houses, though. Millions of Americans like to dream about what their house could look like, and perusing upper-bracket listings feeds those visions.

"Most of the trends in housing show up first in luxury homes and then make their way down," said Joan McCloskey, editorial marketing director for Better Homes and Gardens magazine.

Luxury Home magazine publisher The Ashley Group sees interest in expensive houses growing. It has added four regional Luxury Homes titles to its stable that

Today every boomer either has reached or shortly will reach the empty-nesting life stage. This life stage marks a dramatic shift in consumer spending, away from needs-driven purchases for home and family and more spending devoted to personal luxuries.

Pam Danziger, president, Unity Marketing

will provide "extensive examples of high-end homes that convey the flavor and distinctiveness of their regions," said Greg Samios, executive vice president of The Ashley Group.

So what do today's luxury homes have to contain? Here's a rundown from a panel of Chicago-area custom homebuilders on the hottest amenities.

**1. High-tech everything.** Whether they need it or not, luxury homebuyers are insisting that their houses be wired for the latest gadgets, from high-speed Internet access to elaborate lighting and security systems. "I'm building a house for myself and I'm not a computer person. But I'm forced to put

all this in because it is expected to see in these houses," said Charles Page, an architect in Winnetka, Ill.

**2. Plasma television.** do nicely on a full wall-level recreation area probably will be two of the main family room and room.

See BOOMERS, p. 10

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# Taking a look around the East Bay real estate community

Views and information for and at the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

## THE PUBLIC

**Strong** Home sales this year will be nger than earlier projected. as should surpass last year's 3rd according to the National ciation of Realtors. Lower in- rates brought more buyers the housing market. Tight in- ries will cause a continua- of the rise in home prices. e detailed information can be nd in the July issue of NAR's Estate Outlook: Market nds and Insights. The publica- can be purchased by calling 1-874-6500.

**Join Glass** Alameda Museum board member **Ginger Schuler** of Har- Bay Realty and **BikeAlameda** cruising that combines history, rise and fresh air. You will ex- ient, first a slide show of his- windows and then a biking ursion to view those same dows. Registration fees in- admission to historic nes. For information call 510-4890 or visit [www.alamedamuseum.org](http://www.alamedamuseum.org). Every house can be beautiful. **KeyHome** Real Estate wants help you make yours even

more beautiful. On alternate Saturdays through August, a speaker series is offered. Home design professionals will discuss their work and answer questions. Author **Jane Powell** is the presenter on Saturday, July 12. Powell discusses renovating bungalows. To RSVP, call **Catherine Stern** of BerkeleyHome Real Estate at 510-524-5406.

**Victorian Classics** Attend "Our Houses" in Alameda. From architecture to Victorian classics, the Alameda Museum provides slide show lectures for those who love homes. The next lecture is at 7 p.m., Thursday, July 31. Author **Alex Brammer** presents "Victorian Classics", a slide show discussing the fabulous residences of Nob Hill. In the gallery, see a mixed media show by **Jason Foster**. For lecture information call 510-748-0796.

**Art At PCR** The Claremont office of Prudential California Realty is hosting an art exhibit for the Junior Center of Art and Science, now through July 31. Works by present and former students are on exhibit at the PCR Tunnel Road office in Berkeley. The public is invited to stop-in and view the children's artworks. The center annually serves over 35,000 students from

preschool on. For directions call 510-845-0211.

**Remodel Class** Attend "Remodeling Your Home: From Ideas To Reality." This Piedmont Adult School workshop is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, July 19. Instructor **Mercedes Corbell** of Corbell Design + Architecture will discuss the practical aspects of remodeling. Call for enrollment information at 510-594-6716 or visit [www.piedmontadultschool.org](http://www.piedmontadultschool.org).

**Home Buying Free Answers**

Learn the answers to many home buying questions at "The Home Buying Answers Class" This free class is from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, August 9. Senior Loan Consultant **Margie Lupo** of Vintage Mortgage conducts the class. To pre-register, call the "Answers Class" hotline at 888-629-0077 x8610.

**Class On Tax**

The self-employed and independent contractors learn how to take every business deduction, reduce your chance of audit and use new tax laws to save taxes. Attend "Basic Tax and Record Keeping Information for Self-Employed People" on Saturday July 12, in Montclair. The class is taught by Montclair tax professional **Jan Zobel EA**. For more information call EastHill Press at 510-530-5474.

## WCR MARDI GRAS

Bay Area Women's Council of Realtors chapters will gather on July 18 for a Mardi Gras on the Bay Cruise. Attendees will board at 2:30 p.m., at Pier 33, in San Francisco. The trip offers networking, casino gaming, a costume contest and buffet dinner. Check with your local chapter president for ticket information.

## TOUR DAY BREAKFAST

Oakland Realtors are invited to join Oakland affiliates at the monthly Tour Day Breakfast. The breakfast is at 8:45, on Thursday, July 24, at the OAR Building. Author **Shannon Jones** will speak on current legal issues. Bring marketing flyers and an appetite. Network more - sell more. For questions and parking information call **Ingrid Westgard** of North American Title at 510-339-2380 or **Ramadan Aziz** of First American Title at 510-339-1230.

## ARPB NETWORK

The Associated Real Property Brokers (ARPB) presents "The Dynamic Networking Breakfast", from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 16. The location is Jimmie's Entertainment Complex on San Pablo, in Oakland. Real estate agents are encouraged to bring flyers and market their properties. The meeting is open forum. For more information call **Tyrone Cooney** of Fidelity National Title at 510-893-8100.

## CONNECT

An industry innovation and technology event is coming July 23 to 25. Real Estate Connect is held at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. Speakers include the California Association of Realtors' (CAR) Vice-President and Chief Economist **Leslie Appleton Young** and Executive Vice President **Joel Singer**. Additional speakers represent a Who's Who of the real estate industry. CAR members receive a \$300 discount off the regular conference price. View additional information at [www.inman.com/connect/car](http://www.inman.com/connect/car).

## RENTAL HOUSING MEETING

The Rental Housing Association of Northern Alameda County offers a membership meeting monthly. Non-members are also invited to attend. The next meeting is at 6:45 p.m., Thursday, July 17. The meeting is held at the Greek Orthodox Church, on Lincoln Avenue, in Oakland. For information and registration call the RHANAC office at 510-893-9873.

## SPECIAL SPORTS

There's something for everyone at the Sports Challenge 2003. Even for the "unsports-minded." This multi-faceted event is supported by Alameda County



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To be considered for the Real Estate Spotlight (front cover box) e-mail text and photo to: [hillsrefeaturehome@cctimes.com](mailto:hillsrefeaturehome@cctimes.com)

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# Can life estate 'remainderman' be wiped out by life tenant?

ROBERT J. BRUSS  
INMAN NEWS FEATURES

**Dear Bob:** My father has a life estate on the house where he lives. I am the remainderman. He says I must pay the property taxes, homeowner's insurance and repairs for the house. Also, he makes me pay half his utility bills although I don't live in the house. I am struggling to pay my mortgage and taxes on my own house.

**Is he taking advantage of me?** Can he remove me from the life estate at any time? — Joe DiR.

**Dear Joe:** You didn't tell me what state the house is located in. But I can share the general rules for life estates which prevail in most states. The life tenant (your father) is usually responsible for paying the property taxes, mortgage interest (but not principal) payments, insurance and repairs.

If you are the remainderman (remainderperson to be politically correct), the life tenant cannot have you removed from the title. Eventually after the life tenant dies, you or your heirs will own the house free of your father's life estate.

However, if a life tenant fails to pay the applicable expenses and maintain the property, his life estate can be terminated for "waste." Please consult a real estate attorney in the state where the property is located to review the exact life estate details under that state's law.

## Is loud airport noise a valid reason to break a lease?

**Dear Bob:** I recently moved into a rental house on a one-year lease. What I didn't know when I signed the lease was the neighborhood has loud noise from a nearby major airport, especially at night and early in the morning. This noise wasn't disclosed to me by the landlord or the realty agent when I rented the house. I've told the landlord I am having trouble sleeping because of all the noise. When I visited the area during the daytime, before I rented the house, I didn't notice the airport

noise which is more intense at night. Do I have legal grounds to cancel the lease? — Susan B.

**Dear Susan:** If the airport noise is so loud a normal person would not be able to sleep, then you might have good cause to break the lease because the landlord failed to disclose this public nuisance before you signed the lease. If you decide to break the lease, the landlord has a duty to re-rent the house as soon as possible to mitigate damages. At the worst, you could be held liable for the lost rent until the house is re-rented. Please consult a local real estate attorney because the exact answer to your question is not clear-cut.

## New realty investor doesn't know how to get started

**Dear Bob:** I recently attended a high-price real estate seminar. But I don't feel I received enough information a first-time investor needs to know to get started. Do you have any suggestions for a new investor without much cash to get started? — Joe C.

**Dear Joe:** Let me recommend two excellent books to read. They should make you so confident of success you won't delay getting started for another minute.

The first book is "Investing in Fixer Uppers" by Jay DeCima. The second book is "Are You Dumb Enough to Be Rich?" by G. William Barnett II. Both are available in stock or by special order at local bookstores, public libraries and through on-line book-sellers.

The new Robert Bruss special report "How to Avoid Buying a Bad House" is available for \$4 from Robert Bruss, 251 Park Road, Burlingame, CA 94010 or by credit card at 800-736-1736 or www.bobbruss.com.

## How to steal a house without going to jail

**Dear Bob:** I know of a house near where I live which has been vacant at least five years. The property tax has not been paid for several years. There are a few

small liens on the property. I would like to buy this house, but I cannot find its owner. I mailed a letter to the property address, but I never received a reply. I searched the title records and on the Internet, but I have not found any other address for the owner. I even asked the neighbors, but nobody knows anything about the owner. I know his name. How can I find him to buy his house? Can I pay the back property taxes and put a lien on the house?

— Neil D.

**Dear Neil:** The county tax collector's office can provide the address to which the property tax bills are mailed. That might show where the legal owner now lives. Or maybe he is dead and his heirs don't know he owned the house. Perhaps he left no known heirs and the house eventually will escheat to the state.

If you pay the property taxes, you cannot put a lien on the property for that amount. Eventually, the tax collector will sell the property for the unpaid property taxes. However, if you want to acquire the house, you should prevent that from happening.

After you are 99 percent certain the owner cannot be found, you could move in and occupy the house under the state law of adverse possession. Your occupancy must be "open, notorious and hostile." That means without permission of the owner.

In addition, you must pay the property taxes. If the owner doesn't show up and eject you for trespassing, after the required number of years you can bring a quiet title lawsuit in court to obtain title to the house by adverse possession. It's risky, but you might succeed. The worst that can happen is you would be kicked out and lose the tax money you paid. For more details, please consult a local real estate attorney.

## Reasons for not paying cash for a home

**Dear Bob:** My sister is buying her first home. She wants to pay all cash. But I recall you wrote

aster — are a must.

**9. An outdoor "room."** It will need a kitchen of its own, with fountains, maybe a waterfall, a fireplace (or firepit, as the case may be) and an adjacent pool and spa.

**10. A six-car garage.** Why stop at four or five? Tim Grogan, executive vice president of Residential Homes of America in Lake Bluff, Ill., said the custom garage isn't just about cars, but about functional rooms with built-in racks, specialty lighting and epoxy-coated floors. Consider the design option of a three-car garage that you can drive through to your porte cochere, where you'll find the other three-car garage.

**11. A screened porch.** Forget the sunroom. "No room is nicer in the house than the screened porch in nice weather," Page said.

The life tenant (your father) is usually responsible for paying the property taxes, mortgage interest (but not principal) payments, insurance and repairs. If you are the remainderman (remainderperson to be politically correct), the life tenant cannot have you removed from the title. Eventually after the life tenant dies, you or your heirs will own the house free of your father's life estate.

about why it is not wise to pay all cash for a residence. However, I can't remember the reasons you explained, although I recall it was very good advice — Debra L.

**Dear Debra:** There are many reasons not to pay all cash for a house or condo. Making yourself property rich and cash poor is not very smart. Worse, if the house turns out to be a dud, perhaps because it is built on top of a toxic waste dump and is unsaleable (to use an extreme example), your sister then would have her cash tied up unnecessarily.

If she can make a 20 percent cash down payment and obtain an 80 percent mortgage, she won't be tying up her cash in one major asset. Buying a condo for all cash is especially foolish because if the condo association gets into litigation, as many do, the condo could become unsaleable until the litigation is resolved.

## Another reverse mortgage advantage

**Dear Bob:** Several times I've read your endorsement of reverse mortgages for senior citizens. My personal experience occurred when my mother obtained one. She received additional income for her later days. But there was an added bonus we didn't expect. Following her death, when we settled her estate and paid off the reverse mortgage, my brother and I became entitled to a large interest deduction when the reverse mortgage was paid in full — Bill C.

**Dear Bill:** Shame on me for not sharing that unexpected interest deduction for the heirs when the accrued reverse mortgage interest is paid to the lender.

## Lead-based paint disclosures required for older homes

**Dear Bob:** My son bought his first house in June 2001. It is an old fixer-upper. When he was replacing some of the wiring, he noticed the drywall was extremely smooth where paint started chipping off. Some time after that, he

started having health problems (exhaustion and balance problems), so he ceased work on the house. He was eventually diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and hasn't been able to work on the house although he is living there. He had the slickness of the drywall examined and it showed positive for lead-based paint. I feel the real estate agent and the house seller should have disclosed this problem because the interior hadn't been painted for at least 30 years. My son wants to get the house fixed up enough to sell it. Do you think the realty agent and the seller should pay to remove the lead-based paint? — Mary E.

**Dear Mary:** Sellers (and landlords) of pre-1978 houses and apartments are required by the federal Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 to provide buyers with the lead-based paint booklet "Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home" and a lead-based paint disclosure form stating whether the seller knows of lead-based paint in the residence.

The buyer or tenant then has up to 10 days to have the house inspected at the buyer's expense for lead-based paint. Your son might have a good cause of action for damages such as removal cost of the paint because the seller and his realty agent failed to make the required lead-based paint disclosures to your son.

However, there is no known cause of MS related to lead-based paint. The leading court case on lead-based paint non-disclosure damages is Smith v. Coldwell Banker, 122 Fed.Supp.2d 267. Your son should consult a local real estate attorney for details.

## Are lofts and condos different?

**Dear Bob:** What is the difference between a condo and a loft in the eyes of a mortgage lender? — Mary Ann B.

**Dear Mary Ann:** If a loft,



ROBERT BRUSS

sometimes called a live-in apartment, has an individual owner's association with the common areas of the property, lenders consider the same as condominiums. A mortgage on a single detached house.

## Can realty agent sell purchase contract buyer or seller?

**Dear Bob:** Can a realty agent sell a purchase offer on the buyer with the buyer's authorization without telling the seller the agent is signing half of the offer? What law governs this issue? — Rory McE.

**Dear Rory:** Unless the state agent has a written agreement with the buyer's (seller's) notarized signature, a real estate agent has no right to sign a realty purchase on behalf of either party.

The statute of frauds requires all real estate sales contracts be in writing and signed by principals, unless a valid attorney named the real estate attorney-in-fact. For more information, please consult a local real estate attorney.

## Can a reverse mortgage be refinanced?

**Dear Bob:** I have a reverse mortgage of \$184,000 at 12 percent interest. My mortgage company and mortgage broker can't renegotiate a larger mortgage. My current reverse mortgage pays me \$916 a month. But I need more money. Can I refinance my reverse mortgage to get more money?

**Dear Paul:** Yes. Conversions on your very low interest rate on your reverse mortgage. These loans, which accumulate interest but require no payment until you sell your home or die, are superb for seniors like you who want income with no repayments.

Reverse mortgages are frequently refinanced due to property values and decreasing interest rates.

But please be aware you incur new refinancing costs you incurred when you got your current reverse mortgage by state list of reverse mortgage lenders can be found at www.reversemortgage.org.

## Boomers

FROM PAGE B4

**3. His, hers and theirs computer rooms.** He needs one for when he brings work home from the office, she needs her own because she runs her business out of the house and the kids have to have a separate one so they don't show up the parents on all the new computer games.

**4. Sub-Zero and Viking appliances.** They're now considered the luxury standard. You might want to consider a commercial-grade, walk-in refrigerator, said Keith Jacobs, president of Jacobs Homes in Deerfield, Ill.

**5. Pot fillers over the range.** For pasta lovers, it makes sense.

Your kitchen will also have to have a built-in coffee station, a sculptured hood over the cooktop, heated floors, dust ports built into the toe kicks of the counters, three or four ovens, multiple dishwashers, refrigerated and warming drawers, two-temperature water dispensers and, of course, copper (or concrete or wood) countertops.

**6. In-home theaters.** Don't forget the popcorn machine.

**7. Wine cellars.** But they don't have to actually be in the cellar. Many homeowners are making them into art statements in the main living areas of their homes.

**8. Panic rooms.** Despite the difficulties encountered by Jodie Foster's character in the movie of the same name, panic rooms that can hold safe documents and valuables — and occupants in the case of disaster — are a must.

**9. An outdoor "room."** It will need a kitchen of its own, with fountains, maybe a waterfall, a fireplace (or firepit, as the case may be) and an adjacent pool and spa.

**10. A six-car garage.** Why stop at four or five? Tim Grogan, executive vice president of Residential Homes of America in Lake Bluff, Ill., said the custom garage isn't just about cars, but about functional rooms with built-in racks, specialty lighting and epoxy-coated floors. Consider the design option of a three-car garage that you can drive through to your porte cochere, where you'll find the other three-car garage.

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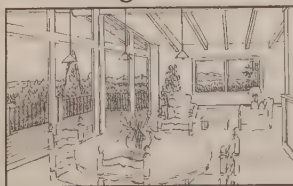
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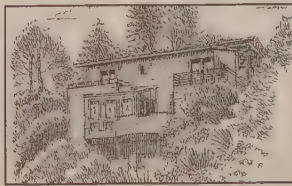


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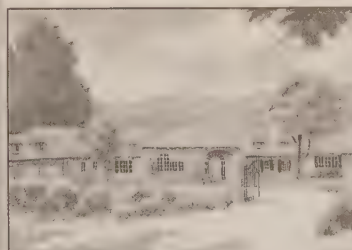
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## Garden shed for tools, pool and more

BY DON AND DAVE RUNYAN  
U-BUILD

If you're looking for a way to get organized this summer, this do-it-yourself garden shed is a great way to add some storage to the "back yard." More durable (not to mention better looking) than metal or plastic sheds, the project is perfect for garden tools, outdoor toys or even pool supplies.

Most woodworkers will be able to finish the shed in a couple of weekends. Built from plywood, standard dimensional lumber, a small quantity of shingles and common gate hardware, the project calls for all straight cuts, and all angles are traced from full-size patterns.

To build, cut the parts to size and assemble a simple frame using glue and screws. Next, add sheathing and roof. (The roof is the most complicated part of the job, but an easy-to-follow series of diagrams will walk you through it one step at a time.)

Finally, build and hang the doors, add hardware and shine up the roof.

The completed shed can be

Painted to match the house, or finished as the builder prefers. The garden shed measures about 7.5 feet tall by 4 feet wide by 2 feet deep.

The Garden Shed plan, No. 930, is \$10.95 and includes complete step-by-step instructions with 26 photos, full-size patterns, detailed construction diagrams, a shopping list and cutting schedule and plywood cutting layouts. A package of shed plans, No. C68, is available for \$21.95 and includes three other shed projects. A catalog picturing hundreds of do-it-yourself projects is \$2.00. Prices include postage and handling.

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# Understand contractor liens before you sign

Before entering into a home improvement contract or contracting for the services of a tradesperson, a homeowner is well advised to understand a powerful legal right that contractors, subcontractors, laborers, or material suppliers have to collect non-payment of services or materials supplied to a job.

Under most circumstances, these individuals are allowed to file a Claim of Lien within 90 days of providing any work to a job, or the substantial completion of a project if they are not paid.

However, before a contractor can file a lien for non-payment, the contractor must "notify" the homeowner of his or her lien rights.

Section 7018.5 of the California Business and Professions Code requires a contractor to provide a homeowner with a notification called a "Notice to Owner" prior to signing a contract for services to be performed. This notice states that under the "California Mechanic's Lien Law," any contractor, subcontractor, laborer, or material supplier who has improved real property but has not been paid for the work, has a right to place a lien on the improved property to secure payment of the monies owed to them.

The Notice to Owner is required to be in the original con-

(Attorney Don Odell's) best practical advice for anyone in a dispute with a contractor is to make sure that you have everything documented. If you decide to withhold payment from the contractor until the work is completed, make sure you are working in good faith with the contractor to resolve your differences.

tract that is signed with a prime contractor. Sub contractors and material suppliers that are not directly contracted by the homeowner are required to provide them with a "Preliminary Notice" which can be sent via the mail.

The Preliminary Notice provides basically the same information as the Notice to Owner, but it must be sent to the homeowner no later than 20 days after the claimant has first furnished labor, service, equipment, or materials to the jobsite. Once a lien is filed, the claimant has 90 days to file a Lien Foreclosure Action in court. The Lien Foreclosure Action is a civil action that, if successful, could allow your property to be foreclosed and sold, with the proceeds from the sale used to pay the lien.

I spoke with Don Odell, an attorney with McNichols, Randick,

O'Dea and Tooliatos, a law firm specializing in real estate and construction law. I asked his opinion of the impact that construction related liens have on the consumer.

"Filing a lien on someone's property can be a serious matter for both the contractor and the consumer. If the contractor has not been licensed during the entire time on the job, or if the contractor does not have a legitimate reason for filing a lien, or if the contractor has not complied with the notice requirements, the contractor could be exposed to both legal and disciplinary action," said Odell.

"For a homeowner, a lien can prevent the refinancing or conveyance of the property (subject to the lien) until the lien is settled," Odell continued. "If the contractor has recorded a lien and does not

file a Lien Foreclosure Action within 90 days, the lien is unenforceable. If the contractor then fails to remove the lien, the homeowner can petition the court to have the lien removed, and may then seek recovery of the associated costs from the contractor."

"On the other hand, if a Lien Foreclosure Action is filed by the contractor, the homeowner will have to defend against the action and may have to file a counterclaim for breach of contract in order to justify not paying the contractor in the first place.

The frustrating part about the mechanic's lien laws is that the contractor essentially controls the matter and could delay the res-

See SCHNEIDER, Page B8

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Wonderful 4BR/3BA Traditional in desirable Piedmont side of Montclair. Living rm w/ fireplace & built-ins, fam. rm, updated kit. Kathy Flynn x1317

## UPPER OAKMORE \$679,000

334 BRAEMAR RD. (Open 2-4:30)

Spacious traditional on quiet cul-de-sac w/ hardwood flrs, 2 bpkcs, fam rm, bonus room & pool yard. 3BR/3BA. Michelle Vasey x1359

## CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$679,000

901 ALMA PLACE (Open 2-4:30)

Pristine English w/great Old World details. Bright spacious rooms, new kit, French doors to level garden. Many recent system upgrades. Steven Biasatti x1379

## MONTCLAIR \$549,000

19 EASTWOOD CT. (Open 2-4:30)

New Listing! Charming well loved 3BR/2BA traditional on quiet cul-de-sac. Eat-in kitchen, dining area, level yard & patio. Sandi Klemmer x1314 & Dick Cohen x1308

## MONTCLAIR \$519,000

230 DUNCAN WAY (Open 2-4:30)

New Listing! Sunny 2BR/1BA home in convenient location near Montclair Village. Thoughtfully maintained. Open floorplan. Michelle Miller x1335

## GLENVIEW/DIMOND \$489,000

4001 CANON AVE. (Open 2-4:30)

Charming 3BR/1BA. Hardwood floors, fireplace. Large private yard w/patio. Convenient location. Carla Bullington x1367

## ROCKRIDGE \$489,000

5290 BROADWAY TERR #302 (Open 2-4:30)

Top floor loft condo w/2 master suites, 2BA, SF Bay views, large garden deck. Garage. Ashley O'Neill x1368

## OAKLAND \$410,000

300 GALINDO ST. (Open 2-4:30)

New Listing! 3+BR craftsman home w/original details. Hardwood flrs w/mahogany inlays, spacious kitchen w/Wedgewood stove, FDR, private yard. Joanna Hirsch x1366

## ADAMS POINT \$175,000

85 VERNON ST. #103 (Open 2-4:30)

New Listing! 1BR condo: hardwood & tile floors, fresh paint, balcony! Lorri Arazi x1330

## PIEDMONT \$3,600,000

Impeccably updated 1907 home w/ 4+BR/4+BA, "Chef's" kitchen with adjoining family room. Lower level media, billiard & wine rooms. Separate guest cottage. Robyn Mohr x1310

## UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,875,000

New construction! Classic Mark Becker designed home. 4+BR/3.5BA, crafts room, wine cellar, master BR w/fireplace, hardwood, granite. 4000+ sq. ft. James Duffy x1326

## NORTH BERKELEY \$1,850,000

Historic chalet just north of UC. Grand restoration of a unique and beautiful home, Maybeck & White, architects. SeeMore @ pacunion.com. Gini Erck x1339

## MONTCLAIR \$879,000

Stunning 5yr. old contemporary. Open floorplan, 3BR/2+BA, kitchen/family room combo, wonderful light, yard. Michelle Miller x1335

## MONTCLAIR \$799,000

Sophisticated 7yr. old home in private setting, 3BR/2.5BA, open & airy Great room, family room, deck & park-like level yard. Teri Carlisle x1305

## UPPER LAKESHORE \$799,000

Excellent location! Circa 1920 fourplex w/large 1BR units approx. 900 sq. ft. Hardwood flrs, heated fireplaces, formal dining w/built-ins. Chuck Corwin x1353

## MONTCLAIR \$775,000

Great location! 3 story contemporary w/4BR w/views, 3.5BA, formal dining room, downstairs room w/bar. Large yard. Dick Cohen x1308

## MONTCLAIR \$700,000

Fabulous Bay view lot with large level area. One of a kind combo at the end of a cul-de-sac. Wendy Gardner Ferrari x1303

## CLAREMONT HILLS LOT \$699,000

Large lot w/plans for 5637 sq. ft. home by Phillip Perkins. Borders an undeveloped 39+/- acre wooded parcel. David Ichikawa x1399

## BERKELEY \$475,000

Flooded w/sunlight on a large lot w/partial Bay & bridge views. Ideal starter home among neighboring mansions. 3BR/2.5BA. Leslie Avant x1341

## OAKLAND \$235,000

2BR/1BA fixer. Formal dining room, fireplace, laundry room, yard, detached garage & workshop. Lee Jacobson x1309

## MONTCLAIR \$1,005,000

Elegant traditional with lovely Bay & hill views, 4BR/3.5BA, sunny office plus a rumpus room, spacious kitchen/family room combination. Nancy Moore x1302

## CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$995,000

Wonderful 2-story traditional. 4BR/2.5BA, master suite, formal dining, cook's kitchen, hardwood floors, fireplace. Large lot w/wonderful backyard. Carla Bullington x1367

## MONTCLAIR \$549,000

Charming Tudor, 2BR/1BA with many plus spaces, could be 3rd bedroom. Many recent improvements! Nancy Moore x1302

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## Schneider

FROM PAGE B7

lution of the lien for years. This can waste a lot of time and money for the homeowner even in the best of circumstances."

Odell stated that although a homeowner may successfully defend against a mechanic's lien and recover the potential attorneys' fees and costs, fighting a mechanic's lien is not a pleasant experience. His best practical advice for anyone in a dispute with a contractor is to make sure that you have everything documented. If you decide to withhold payment from the contractor until the work is completed, make sure you are working in good faith with the contractor to resolve your differences.

In the event that you cannot resolve your differences and wish to terminate the contractor, do so promptly and immediately record a Notice of Termination.

While this will not prevent the contractor from filing a lien, recording the Notice will reduce the amount of time that the contractor has to file a lien from 90 days after the completion of the improvement, to 60 days from the date of the Notice of Termination. If the contractor is not paying attention, the reduced time frame may cause the contractor to miss the filing deadline, making the lien unenforceable.

Remember, any time that a lien is involved, the most critical supporting document you have is

the contract that you signed with the contractor. Your contract will contain the agreed upon payment schedule, and a description of work to be completed, two of the most important pieces of information needed to determine the legitimacy of the claim.

Your contract should also include a start and finish date, a detailed description of the work to be done, a down payment amount, a schedule of when payments are to be made and an explanation of what constitutes a completed job.

Resolving issues with liens and contracts can be a frustrating and lengthy experience for most people. Consumers need to protect themselves whenever they enter into a contract. The best way to do this is by working with a competent contractor, and having a well-written document with clearly defined terms.

To assist the consumer in this matter, Don Odell has developed a six-page handout describing the various steps involved in the lien process, and what consumers can do to protect their rights. If you would like to receive a copy of this information, visit our website at [www.allaboutliens.com](http://www.allaboutliens.com), and click on the "Legal Expert" link.

John R. Schneider is a licensed general building contractor and a certified residential code specialist. Readers may address their comments to John Schneider, 24326 Mission Blvd. Suite 7, Hayward, Ca 94544. Fax number: 510 537-8666. Please include phone number.

## 'Reverse' mortgages catch on as Americans age

BY KATHLEEN M. HOWLEY  
BLOOMBERG NEWS

HAVERHILL, MASS. — Elle Labombarde, 78, didn't have a retirement plan at the machine shop he ran. His home in Haverhill, Massachusetts, though, had risen in value to \$270,000, from \$24,500 when he bought it in 1962.

"I'm lucky to have the house to bank on," he said. In March, "I took a lump sum reverse mortgage and invested it so I'll have something to live on."

Reverse mortgages let people 62 and older borrow against the equity in their homes. Typically no payment is due until the borrower dies, when the heirs assume responsibility for paying off the principal and interest, which they can do by selling the home.

With home values up 30 percent since 1995 and 34.5 million Americans at retirement age or older, the number of reverse mortgages has tripled in four years to 8,100 last year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development said.

With another 41.8 million Americans aged 50 to 64, Wells Fargo & Co. and GMAC Mortgage are among lenders that see a developing market.

"We've seen a 20- to 30-percent increase in inquiries just this year alone," said Jeff Taylor, vice president of senior products at Wells

Fargo Home Mortgage, the largest reverse mortgage lender.

Reverse mortgages have been around for about 20 years, though they account for less than 1 percent of the trillion dollar-a-year mortgage market. Other active reverse mortgage lenders include North American Mortgage Co. and Alliance Mortgage Co.

### Controversial past

Reverse mortgages are starting to overcome a checkered past. In the 1980s, consumer advocates said the loans weren't in borrowers' best interest because some lenders were not only charging interest but also taking a stake in any gain in property value, increasing the cost to borrowers.

Today, the Housing Department's FHA program insures 90 percent of the loans, having set standards 10 years ago that did away with the "shared appreciation" feature.

See REVERSE, Page B10

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*Jack London's House*  
1914 Foothill Boulevard  
Oakland



This Queen Anne Victorian 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath home has been lovingly updated and is located on a 25' x 140' lot. Wonderful period details, a beautiful garden sanctuary and huge loft-like basement down with a private entrance. Own a piece of affordable history.  
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OAKLAND

BEAUTIFUL NEW HOME IN THE HILLS

You'll enjoy the classic detail of this gorgeous 3 BR home w/master suite. Extra office/den, vaulted ceiling hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen w/cherry cabinets family rm, living room w/fireplace, 2 car attached garage. #03012603 Paul Triplett 510-662-8533 \$1,269,000

KENSINGTON

FIXER OPPORTUNITY

3 BR 1 BA, approx. 1634 sq. ft. with bay views! 1 in central heat, larger lot. Great opportunity! #030186 Michele Manzone 510-222-8870 ext. 245 \$449,950

BERKELEY

CRAFTSMAN FIXER OPPORTUNITY!

3+ BR 1 BA, fireplace, formal dining rm, eat-in kitchen room to expand. Basement needs TLC. #03021447 Peggy Norris 510-662-8570 \$399,000

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New Listing in Montclair!

OPEN SUNDAY, JULY 13 & 20, 2-4:30PM



230 Duncan Way, Oakland

Conveniently located near Montclair Village and thoughtfully maintained over the years. This sunny 2 bedroom, 1 bath home features a kitchen with hardwood floors, new counter top, eating area and access to the back yard. The two bedrooms are spacious and enjoy pretty outlooks. The open floorplan makes for comfortable entertaining as the kitchen, living room and dining area flow easily into one another. Almost all rooms are found on a single level (the exception is a loft area currently used as an office).



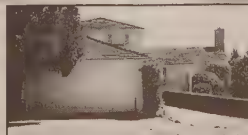
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2 New Listings



Open Sun.  
2-4:30

7224 View Ave., El Cerrito

#266-Charming custom built home near Mira Vista Golf & Country Club. Generous size living rm, w/fireplace formal din., spacious kit. w/breakfast rm. & built-in hutch, spacious mstr. bdrm. suite w/tub & stall shower, in-law potential, plus a panoramic S.F. Bay view. \$659,500



Sharp North & East Home

#209-Great neighborhood, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Attached 2-car garage. All new windows and doors. Fresh paint, new fence, refinished hardwood floors, new carpet. Ready to move in. Priced to sell at \$349,900.

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## PIEDMONT - OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4:30



**11 SCENIC AVENUE** **\$1,795,000**  
Picture perfect English Tudor in central town. 5 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, den, family room, level out to large rear garden. Great kitchen, filtered view. Debra Dryden



**455 MOUNTAIN AVENUE** **\$1,295,000**  
With a great floor plan for indoor & outdoor living this 4+BR/3+BA traditional home includes gracious formal rooms, den/office, rumpus & au pair. C. Jones & D. DeBardi



**121 HAGAR AVENUE** **\$1,280,000**  
Enjoy the spectacular views from this charming Piedmont home! Traditional floor plan w/gracious formal rooms, large rumpus room & a separate au-pair unit. Mindy Scott

## BERKELEY - ALBANY & KENSINGTON - OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4:30



**85 KINGSTON ROAD** **\$950,000**  
KENSINGTON. New custom construction 2002! Arts & Crafts design! Bay Views! Serene setting amongst trees & built around a secluded courtyard. Elegant bamboo floors, slate fireplace. 3BR/2BA + loft. Chris Cohn

**1138 GRANDVIEW DRIVE** **\$1,700,000**  
Exciting new traditional with San Francisco views! Dramatic entry bridge spanning the creek! 4BR/3.5BA, formal dining room, large kitchen/family room & expansive terraces. Bebe McRae

**2810 CLAREMONT BLVD.** **\$1,295,000**  
Prestigious Claremont Court! Elegant traditional with great sunny garden! 4BR, two sun rooms, study/den and large remodeled kitchen/family room. Great location, close to shops and BART! Bebe McRae

**933 SHATTUCK AVENUE** **\$949,000**  
Stunning Italianate Mediterranean w/rich architecture. 4BR/2BA, spacious dining & living rooms, Bay views, gorgeous park-like garden w/al fresco dining area & outdoor fireplace. Ruth Frassetto

**37 EUCALYPTUS PATH** **\$749,000**  
Breathtaking views from this unique contemporary. Located above the Claremont Hotel, this four plus bedroom home is secluded from the street offering the ultimate in privacy. Diane Verducci

**612 COVENTRY ROAD** **\$695,000**  
KENSINGTON. Privacy & tranquility on an oversized lot in the Kensington foothills! Bay view. 3+BR/2.5BA including a master suite & lovely large study & extra studio! Decks! Single garage! Susie Schevill

**54 COLORADO AVENUE** **\$695,000**  
A sophisticated, romantic European style home with views of the Bay & surrounded by a beautiful lush garden. 2+BR/1BA, separate study, gorgeously remodeled bathroom. Ronald Sterling Eggherman

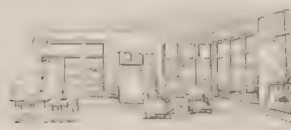
**1199 ORDWAY AVENUE** **\$710,000**  
"Muir Woods" setting with majestic redwood trees and a flowing stream. Chef's kitchen! Skylights! Remodeled baths! Striking European colors. 4BR/2.5BA. Near BART, Monterey Mkt & Solano Ave. Chris Cohn

**1672 TACOMA AVENUE** **\$559,000**  
Light-filled gem! Craftsman details. Living room with fireplace and built-ins, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen, two bedrooms, private back garden, garage. Great location! Helene Barkin

**42 SLATER LANE** **\$525,000**  
Extraordinary 2+BR/2BA home in a secluded location above the Claremont Hotel and Close to coffee & tennis. High ceilings, some views. Deck. Lower level w/ separate entry. Paul Templeton

**1516 SONOMA AVENUE** **\$579,000**  
ALBANY. This lovely 3BR/2BA Craftsman bungalow has many original architectural details, great separation of space, lush front & back gardens, and is located on one of Albany's most desirable streets. The Ratcliffes

## OAKLAND & ALAMEDA - OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30



**6033 SKYLINE BLVD.** **\$1,895,000**  
Live in a work of art at the top of Montclair! This serene David Stark Unbel contemporary features magical finishes, unbelievable design & stunning Bay & city views. 5BR/3BA. Erika Celestre

**5626 WEAVER PLACE** **\$1,849,000**  
Private gated estate on 3.2 acres w/spectacular views. Equestrian stable, landscaped gardens, 4BR including two suites, gourmet kitchen, updated throughout. Endless possibilities for expansion. Kurt Buchholz



**20 PERTH PLACE** **\$1,595,000**  
Bay views! Dramatic 4BR/4BA architect designed home. Easy flow to outdoor patio & private garden. Spectacular master + separate 1BR apartment for guests/office/studio. Helene Barkin

**1033 AMITO AVENUE** **\$1,375,000**  
Gorgeous 2-yr old Mediterranean w/stunning views! Architectural design w/soaring ceilings, 2 fireplaces, large gourmet kitchen w/adjoining family room, large decks, private courtyard & lavish master suite. Jill Carrigan

**47 BAY FOREST DRIVE** **\$969,000**  
Enjoy the stunning Bay & city views in a serene hills setting! Subtle exterior, striking open interior w/fabulous cook's kitchen, great room, 3BR/2.5BA, huge master & level garden. Annie Walrand

**1907 OAKVIEW DRIVE** **\$949,500**  
Captivating views of SF, & bridges. Alluring period architecture (circa 1932). Courtyard entry, lovely grounds & huge entertainment deck. Authentic ship's bar/dancehall. 3BR/2.5BA. Lori Lombardo

**6553 HEATHER RIDGE WAY** **\$839,000**  
Serene and classy 4BR/2.5BA on a quiet street conveniently located near Montclair Village, shops, dining & transportation. Spacious open floor plan, chef's kitchen and a real wine cellar. Tricia Swift

**4 BINNACLE HILL** **\$759,900**  
Fabulous views from this stylish Hiller Highlands townhouse. Many extras including spacious front deck w/gazebo, library & sun room off the kitchen. Oversized master suite + guest room. Elizabeth Dickson

**4000 GREENWOOD AVE.** **\$699,000**  
Glenview Craftsman, spacious three story home, 3+BR/3 full BA, au pair space with a separate entrance, beautiful architectural detail throughout the light & airy rooms. Judith Cain

**4301 VIEWCREST COURT** **\$679,000**  
Spacious open floor plan on a beautifully landscaped corner lot. Nicely updated kitchen w/adjoining family room. Gracious master suite & lovely landscaping. Rear garden, perfect for entertaining. Carolyn Jones

**4084 39TH AVENUE** **\$649,000**  
Up a private driveway lies this old fashioned 3BR/2.5BA cottage nestled by tiered gardens. Located in the rear is a sunny detached studio w/loft, ideal for a home office or artist's retreat. Dana Cohen

**41 CHADBOURNE WAY** **\$649,000**  
This private & exquisitely remodeled home features vaulted, open beamed ceilings, dramatic SF views, modern kitchen, peaceful master suite w/Shoji screens & spa, decks & garden. Sherry Benninger



**6259 RUTHLAND ROAD** **\$649,000**  
Move right in to this immaculate Montclair contemporary home with open living and dining room plus kitchen, three bedrooms, two full baths. Convenient location. Debbi DiMaggio

**4048 LAGUNA AVENUE** **\$639,000**  
Romantic exotic oasis. 4BR/2BA. Remodeled eat-in "cook's" kitchen, carved Craftsman fireplace, hardwood floors throughout. Lower space w/separate entrance, oversized lush tropical garden & level lawn. Karen Starr

**4258 LAKESHORE AVENUE** **\$629,000**  
Located on a quiet Crocker Highlands street, this charming 4BR Cape Cod boasts pride of ownership from the beautiful gardens to the beautiful gleaming hardwood floors. Mavis Delacroix



**38 RIO VISTA AVENUE** **\$619,000**  
Located on an oversized lot near popular Piedmont Ave., this spacious 3BR bungalow features a formal dining room w/fireplace, large eat-in kitchen, expansive lower level, garden & antique carriage house. Mavis Delacroix

**148 SAMARIA LANE** **\$429,000**  
Spectacular updated townhome. South Bay views. Soaring ceilings & hip lighting. Hardwood, Berber, granite & awesome colors. Wonderful deck off living room. Spacious garage & storage area. Anne Feste



**419 VERNON STREET** **\$419,000**  
Enter the lush jasmine covered archway to this sparkling, sunny 2BR home in a desirable and convenient location. Eat-in kitchen, formal dining room, level garden w/ fruit trees. Sheila Gallagher

**2101 SHORELINE DR. #488** **\$400,000**  
ALAMEDA. Shoreline condominium across from the beach. Top floor unit w/2BR plus loft, 1.5BA. Updated throughout including raised dining room, newer kitchen, fireplace & decks. South Bay views. Kurt Buchholz

**670 VERNON STREET #107** **\$399,000**  
Pristine end unit in a desirable location. This condominium features 2 master suites, living room w/ fireplace, formal dining room, kitchen w/breakfast area & views of the Rose Gardens & Piedmont Hills. Dana Cohen

**8401 NEY AVENUE** **\$375,000**  
Terrific corner 2BR/1BA bungalow with Craftsman details & plenty of light. Kitchen has been remodeled. Spacious living room w/built-in bookcases. View of the city and Bay. Diane Verducci

**3904 SUTER STREET** **\$289,000**  
Charming starter home in great condition w/ hardwood floors, fireplace, dining area, bright kitchen w/access to garden. 2BR/1BA & attached garage. Clean & sunny. Bertina Balestrieri

## BERKELEY - BY APPOINTMENT



**STUNNING VILLA** **\$4,250,000**  
The "Villa Tramonto"! A world of its own! Main house plus two guest quarters and a separate cottage. Beautiful condition! Bebe McRae

**CLAREMONT HILLS** **\$1,400,000**  
New construction! Just above the Claremont Hotel! 5BR/4.5BA, kitchen/family room, office w/separate entry! Close to shops & BART! Bebe McRae

**CREEKSIDE CLASSIC** **\$1,350,000**  
Creekside John Hudson Thomas classic! Best street! Gracious, private and unique. Separate art studio or office! Sunny pool. Close to Claremont resorts, dining, shops & BART! Bebe McRae

**PERTH PLACE** **\$1,350,000**  
This warm Mediterranean offers fine detailing with an ease-of-living flow. Bay view! Spacious tiled terrace. Elevator! 5BR/3+BA. Nacio Brown

**VIEW MEDITERRANEAN** **\$1,300,000**  
A magnificent Mediterranean with Bay views and a beautiful pool! 3BR/3.5BA, study, family room, formal dining room and updated kitchen! Coveted Thousand Oaks neighborhood. Bebe McRae



**STORYBOOK CLASSIC** **\$725,000**  
Built in '99 with beautiful detail and finishes! 4BR/2BA, level-in with a two car garage, private sunny garden! Close to shops & BART! Bebe McRae

**BERKELEY CONTEMPORARY** **\$595,000**  
This unique contemporary was built by Judd Boynton and offers a breathtaking Bay views, 3BR/2BA, expansive deck & family room or au pair. Convenient location, close to UC. Bebe McRae

## OAKLAND - BY APPOINTMENT



**LASALLE ESTATES** **\$2,988,000**  
New approx. 6000 sq. ft. Elegant, stately design. Elevator, Bay view, high-end finishes, in exclusive LaSalle Estates (Oakland). Nearing completion. Debra J. Dryden

**MONTCLAIR ESTATE** **\$2,250,000**  
Spectacular vintage estate set on 5.11 magical acres of privacy & natural beauty. Waterfalls, pool, lush gardens, & views. Main house + 4 structures. Anne Feste

**CLASSIC MEDITERRANEAN** **\$1,890,000**  
High-quality throughout, 4+BR/3.5BA, pecan floors, grand living room, open kitchen/family room. Beautiful stone & ironwork master w/views. Kurt Buchholz

**UPPER ROCKRIDGE** **\$1,245,000**  
Beautiful view home! Level entry, 4BR/3BA, formal dining room, large kitchen/family room, billiard room or home office, 2-car attached garage. Bebe McRae

**DRAMATIC CONTEMPORARY** **\$949,900**  
Fabulous new 4 + bedroom, three + bath Contemporary. Soaring open design, kitchen/family combo, granite, hardwood floors throughout. Steve Michaelides

**SPECTACULAR LIVING** **\$735,000**  
Sophisticated living in historic building at Lake Merritt. This 2+BR/2.5BA, has gracious formal rooms & elegant features. Situated on the 12th flr. w/views. Mindy Scott

**GLENNVIEW BUNGALOW** **\$429,000**  
Wonderful 2BR/1BA bungalow w/hardwood floors. Living room w/fireplace & French doors out to a covered front porch. Eat-in kitchen & remodeled bath. Kurt Buchholz

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## Reverse

FROM PAGE B8

"They spent a lifetime paying for that house. It makes sense for them to use the equity, if they need it, while they're still alive," said Bronwyn Belling, a reverse mortgage specialist with the American Association of Retired People in Washington.

Often a reverse mortgage is the only home loan available to seniors who don't have enough income to qualify for a "forward," or traditional mortgage requiring monthly payments, Belling said.

### Families inquire

Most of the people who make inquiries about reverse mortgages aren't senior citizens, Taylor said. "They're adult children or other family members looking for additional solutions to the problem of an aging person not having enough to meet monthly housing expenses," Taylor said.

A typical customer is a 70-year-old widow with a home valued at \$135,000 that has no mortgage on it, he said. She would be eligible for either a \$66,700 lump sum or a lifetime monthly payment of about \$400, he said.

Rates usually are comparable to other adjustable rate mortgages, tied to the one-year Treasury bill, he said. The one-year adjustable mortgage rate was at 5.82 percent recently, according to Freddie Mac.

Some people use the loan as a monthly income supplement for prescription drugs not covered by their insurance, some use it to maintain homes or make alterations for handicap use, and others take a lump sum and use it to travel or give it to family members who need money.

That concerns Len Raymond, director of Homeowner Options for Massachusetts Elders (HOME), a Boston non-profit group.

"If they pull the money out of their house and use it for frivolous reasons, or give it to their kids so the kids can buy a house, the equity won't be there if they need it down the road," he said.

"Chances are they're going to be living a lot longer than they think."

Obtaining a reverse mortgage doesn't obligate a homeowner or heirs to sell a home, said Bud Carter, senior director of residential finance with the Mortgage Bankers Association in Washington D.C.

"Either you or your heirs can always pay off the debt and keep the property," he said.

The amount of the loan plus the interest accrued typically does not have to be paid back until a person dies or vacates a house for more than 12 months, he said.

"Part of the challenge with reverse mortgages is: it requires some mental gymnastics to understand the concept," Carter said. "You have to think in reverse — it's a mortgage, and the bank pays you."

# Taking a look a title insurance

KNIGHT RIDDER/TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q. My friend Scott in California e-mailed me ... about his title insurance. ...

My question is: Are there exclusions and limitations on title insurance policies and shouldn't the purchaser of the policy, even if they aren't the insured, have some indemnification?

If I read this stuff correctly, it seems that the title company says the bank is the insured and Scott has no protection for a lien that the title insurer didn't discover.

—Reathel Giannonatti, Mentor, Minn.

A. Your friend has received a responsible and professional answer from the title company. There are two categories of title insurance; one is a lender's title policy the other an owner's. The former insures the lender against loss in the event of a defect in title and must be purchased as a requirement of obtaining a mortgage loan. The owner's policy is optional and protects the owner's equity interest due to title defects.

When the title is flawed resulting in a loss of value to a home, the first monies from a resale are paid to cover the mortgage loan. If there is insufficient money to pay the mortgage loan, the lender's title policy pays for any loss. The loss of owner's equity is not covered by the lender's title policy.

Q. About 10 years ago, expecting that mortgage rates were near the lows, I refinanced an existing loan, accepting a two-year prepayment clause.

With rates now significantly lower, what are my options? I can pay the penalty, but only if I can amortize the cost over a long enough period.

I can seek a long-term lock-in, but no lender seems interested in such a long term (most say that they have never heard of such a long term lock-in). I can wait until closer to the expiration of the two-year period (early 2004).

—W. Westphal, Indianapolis

A. There is nothing I can suggest. You have clearly stated your options. Although there is some risk to waiting, I do not expect interest rates to increase dramatically between now and early 2004. If you are not comfortable waiting, include the prepayment penalty in your refinancing. In that way the cost will be amortized over the life of your new loan.

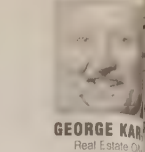
Q. I have what's called a borrowing pit behind my land ... a company comes and digs out a side of a hill and takes the dirt somewhere else. That leaves the side of the hill bare.

Now when it rains I get all their trash and all the orange water coming down to my land. It's got a ravine cut so deep across my property that a full-grown man can stand in it and just barely be seen. Also I'm afraid that my kids or someone's kids might get caught in it. ... I hired a lawyer but all he's done is take my money.

By the way the company that owns this pit is Mays Construction, a major company in Tennessee. I've talked to the owner, and he has told me it's been doing this for 20 years and it'll be doing it another 20.

—Darryl Blackwell, Ooltewah, Tenn.

A. Runoff and flooding of adjacent land by an adjoining user is not acceptable and likely to be in violation of any use permits allowing for the adjoining gravel operation. I suggest you contact your county commissioners and the



GEORGE KARVEL  
Real Estate Co.

county attorney with relation of any ordinance any runoff.

Similarly, I would suggest you contact your state Department of Natural Resources and the State Pollution Control Agency, permit gravel mining, contaminating your land, termites into which the drains. You will be doing your fellow citizen following up on this issue.

George Karvel is a Distinguished Chair in at the University of St. Paul, Minn. E-mail: gkarvel@aol.com. Please name, city and state.

## House hunting this weekend? Don't miss Open Home Guide on B18.

# Making compost work

BY SCOTT GIBSON  
TODAY'S HOMEOWNER MAGAZINE

Bagging all your yard waste is a pain, it's also wasteful.

Yard waste is a key ingredient in compost — decomposed yard and kitchen waste that does wonders in the garden.

Dawn Pettinelli, manager of the soil nutrient analysis lab at the University of Connecticut, says leaves combined with grass clippings, a little soil and water are

the heart of a natural decomposition process that forms compost in as little as three months.

Used as an additive, compost makes soil easier to work and provides nutrients to plants. Compost will even improve the disease resistance of plants. You can simply throw garden and kitchen waste in a pile and leave it alone. Eventually it will decompose. But

See COMPOST, Page B11

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Sophisticated contemporary with wonderful indoor/outdoor flow. Living and dining rooms, kitchen, and master suite open to an expansive deck/garden. Serene and private. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, family room, plus room/office, 2 fireplaces. Prime central Piedmont location.

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**4084 39th Avenue, Redwood Heights**

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*Offered at \$649,000*

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**2908 Pine Ave., Berkeley**  
**By Appointment**  
Beautiful remodeled Arts & Crafts house with many fine details. Box beams, wainscoting, gorgeous windows, hwd floors w/inlay and spacious living and dining rooms, both w/fireplaces, 4 bdms, 2.5 baths, bkdy w/majestic redwood tree & a 2-car garage. Close to College Ave., the Claremont Hotel & Spa, Rockridge BART, U.C., & Tilden Park  
Norah Brower 524-9888 x26 \$985,000

**5658 Ocean View, Oakland**  
**Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:30**  
New Listing! Vacant duplex in the heart of Rockridge. Two 2 bdrm / 1 bath units. Large public rooms, hwd flrs. 2-car garage + lots of off-street parking! Basement workspace/storage. Close to BART and all the "buzz" of Rockridge!  
Arlene Baxter 524-9888 x19, \$635,000

**1041 Ordway Street, Albany**  
**Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00**  
New Listing! Put on a happy face. Someone spread sunshine all over the place. Wonderful Tudor charm & a delightfully cheery atmosphere. Beaming with wonderful formal spaces. The living room boasts an arched window, a barrel vaulted ceiling and a fireplace. This home includes a nice master bedroom suite w/ access to the deck  
Bill & Tracy 524-9888 x33, \$575,000

**18 Veteran Way, Oakland**  
**Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:30**  
Gorgeous "Storybook-style" home on charming cul-de-sac. Two bdms, 1.5 baths. Lovely living room with vaulted ceiling and parquet oak floors, formal dining room/office/3rd bedroom, breakfast room, remodeled kitchen and baths. Many beautiful Arts & Crafts details and quality upgrades. Large backyard. A work of art.  
Peter Damm 524-9888 x13, \$550,000

**1021 Ridgeview Dr., El Sobrante**  
*(Right off San Pablo Dam Rd.)*  
**By Appointment**  
Price Reduction! Beautiful 2-year old, 4-bdrm, 3-bath home in a small, new, planned community just 6 miles to Orinda. Beautiful mountain views! This gorgeous home has hwd flrs, soaring ceilings, open gourmet kitchen, large, cozy family rm & master bdrm on 1st floor. This lovely home backs up to a peaceful greenbelt—very private & quiet.  
Denise Milburn 524-9888 x35, \$549,000

**1017 Ordway, Albany**  
**Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00**  
Light and bright 2-bdrm home. Freshly painted inside, refinished hwd floors, new roof. Large living room w/ fireplace, formal dining room w/ china cabinet, breakfast nook, laundry room. Sweet backyard w/ patio, veggie garden.  
Jean Auka 524-9888 x16, \$495,000

**706 Pomona Ave., Albany**  
**Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00**  
New Listing! Wonderful street presence. Great neighborhood near Memorial Park. Large and gracious living room with fireplace. Neat as a pin with refinished hardwood floors and an updated bath.  
Bill and Tracy 524-9888 x33, \$479,000

**2632 Warring St., #2, Berkeley**  
**Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00**  
Enjoy peaceful sylvan views from this clean 2-bedroom unit. New berber, new paint, new stove. Bright balcony. Two parking spaces! Ideal location for campus, Elmwood shops and transportation.  
Arlene Baxter 524-9888 x19, \$339,000

**608 - 58th Street, Oakland**  
**Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00**  
New Listing! Sweet 2-bdrm, 1-bath bungalow w/ bonus attic space features new roof, dual-paned windows and hot tub. Minutes from Bushrod Park, transportation, and shopping.  
Warren Lei 524-9888 x14, \$289,000

*"I wanted to thank you for all your help selling the house. In retrospect it seems like the time with no stress at all. We appreciate all that you have done! Please use us as a reference any time we can repay all that you have done for us."*  
—T. B. & S. B.

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# Compost

FROM PAGE B10

building a hot compost pile speeds the process.

"It can be as difficult or as easy as you want it to be," says Pettinelli about making a hot compost pile. "It's almost as much art as it is science."

Building a containment area of the pile is not necessary, although it will make the pile look neater and keep animals out. More important is the right proportion of materials high in carbon and those rich in nitrogen.

Materials such as sawdust, hay and dry leaves have a lot of car-

bon, which supplies food for the compost. Grass, manure (but not dog or cat droppings) and kitchen waste all have a high nitrogen content, which gives the compost energy. Don't use meat scraps, though. They attract animals.

The standard recipe for a hot compost pile, according to Pettinelli, goes like this: Start with a 6- to 8-inch layer of brown stuff — leaves, wood shavings or salt marsh hay.

Then add 2 inches of a material high in nitrogen, then a shovelful or two of good garden soil or commercial compost booster and a handful of both green sand and rock phosphate, available at garden-supply centers.

If you're short of grass clippings or other greens for the nitrogen, use 1 cup of fertilizer or blood meal for every 6 or 8 inches of brown material. Repeat the layers until you have a cube roughly 4 feet on a side.

If the material is very dry, add water; make it moist but not saturated. When the pile is assembled, mix it thoroughly.

If the ingredients are correct, the pile should get to 140 F in about 24 hours.

The pile should be turned at least once a month while the material decomposes, a process that takes three to 12 months.

The pile does not need to be covered, although that is a good

idea if the weather is unusually cold, rainy or dry.

Commercial barrel composters, which claim to drastically shorten the time needed for decomposition, do work, Pettinelli says. But there's a catch: You have to turn the barrel three to five times every day.

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**1087 Ardmore Avenue**  
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**About Debra Pestrak:** An award-winning speaker, trainer and personal coach, Debra delivers a high impact, results-oriented workshop. Her energy and warmth involves the audience and motivates them to action. As President of the San Diego Chapter of the National Speakers Association, Debra speaks from experience. As a result of her ability to communicate effectively, Debra has been in the top 1/2% income bracket for over 15 years.

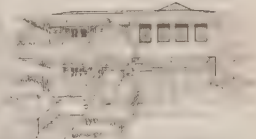
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**6256 MELVILLE DRIVE \$1,295,000**  
**Montclair.** Just Listed! Not on market in 40 years. Irreplaceable English on knoll surrounded by professionally landscaped gardens. Total privacy on 1/3 acre. Bay view. Gorgeous gourmet kitchen (cherry cabinets & hardwood floors), adjoining family room w/trpc., formal dining, study, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, & office off garage. View pictures at [www.wellsandbennett.com](http://www.wellsandbennett.com).  
Call Davis 531-7000 x263

**OPEN 2-4:30**  


**3562 KEMPTON WAY \$375,000**  
**Piedmont Avenue.** 1st Open! Sunny 2BD/1BA Mediterranean located conveniently close to Piedmont Ave's many fine shops, restaurants, cinemas & spas. This delightful home has new exterior paint, gleaming hardwood floors, arches, original tile fireplace & an updated kitchen.  
Heidi Tuggle 531-7000 x286

**COMING SOON**  


**HEART OF TEMESCAL**  
Superbly maintained beauty. Tri-level four bedroom, one and a half bath. Close to all transportation. A must see!  
Anne Manley 531-7000 x277

**BY APPOINTMENT**  


**PIEDMONT AVENUE AREA DUPLEX \$479,000**  
**Piedmont Avenue.** Two one-bedroom units, friendly front porch, off-street parking, yard. Close to almost everything!  
Stan Hammond 531-7000 x246

**BY APPOINTMENT**  


**VICTORIAN CHARM, MODERN AMENITIES \$340,000**  
**North Oakland.** Three bedroom, two bath home with original Victorian details, modern kitchen, foundation, and systems. Basement with expansion potential. Just off Telegraph near downtown.  
Stan Hammond 531-7000 x246

**COMING SOON**  


**FOUR PLEX \$649,000**  
**San Leandro.** Attractive owner's unit 3BD/2BA, two 2BD/1BA, one 1BD/1BA. New windows, new landscaping, new deck, good roof, common laundry. Garage parking. Income \$49,380/yr. Priced to sell.  
Catherine Vallee 531-7006 x258

**COMING SOON**  


**SIX PLEX \$595,000**  
**North Oakland.** Mostly vacant two buildings 1935 and approx. 1950s. Four 1BD and 2 studios. Vintage details. Place market rate tenants. Priced to sell.  
Catherine Vallee 531-7006 x258

**COMING SOON**  


**VICTORIAN SIX PLEX \$550,000**  
**North Oakland.** Good location. Newer roof, wiring, needs cosmetic TLC. Anne Bruff 531-7006 x283

**COMING SOON**  


**BRIGHT AND CHEERY**  
**Two story** condominium just off Piedmont Avenue. Top floor end unit with pretty hill views. Beamed ceiling living/dining room with fireplace and large skylight. Two spacious bedrooms, 2 balconies, in-unit laundry, garage parking. Approximately 1,200 sq. ft.  
Chris Christensen 531-7000 x242

**COMING SOON**  


**SPACIOUS 3 BEDROOM FIXER ON NICE STREET! \$365,000**  
**Maxwell Park.** Hardwood floors, updated tile kitchen, living room with south Bay view & elegant stone fireplace, attached garage, wonderful large yard!  
Kate Phillips 531-7000 x228

**COMING SOON**  


**LOOKING FOR A FIXER? \$360,000**  
**Millsmont.** Needs some TLC. 3+ bedrooms, 2 baths, family room, living room with fireplace. Fantastic rear yard. South Bay view. Reports available.  
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

**COMING SOON**  


**MARVELOUS VIEWS FROM SKYLINE LOT \$295,000**  
Downslope with multi-building view. Double size lot in Montclair. Soil report & survey available. Please call for more information.  
Carol Robbiano 531-7000 x292

**COMING SOON**  


**YOUR SPACE... YOUR TASTE! \$50,000 & \$60,000**  
Build the home of your dreams on either or both of these side-by-side upslope lots (across from 6565 & 6575 Girvin Dr.). Wonderful woody & quiet neighborhood!  
Kevin P. Kennedy 531-7000 x204

**COMING SOON**  


**LOOKOUT OVER THE CITY & BAY \$399,000**  
Huge view lot, ready to build your home in the Claremont Hills. Easy access to everything, potential terraced gardens... make an offer. Heidi Kearsley 531-7000 x295

**COMING SOON**  


**9 LA SALLE AVENUE \$1,295,000**  
**Piedmont.** Extra spacious home offers convenience & privacy! 3+BD/3.5BA, family room opens to large deck, huge rec room, study, level yard, 2-car attached garage, over 4100 sq. ft.  
Chris Christensen 531-7000 x242

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# Home improvement Web site helps pros, do-it-yourselfers

ASKTOOLTALK.COM

Whether a homeowner or a pro, you can find answers to home improvement questions on-line at asktooltalk.com. The site was founded by Leon A. Frechette, an expert in the construction field for over 25 years.

The site www.asktooltalk.com provides information on home improvement, remodeling, new construction and woodworking, as well as product and tool reviews by Frechette and his team of experts found throughout the site.

"This Website is about solutions and if you can't find what you are looking for, e-mail us," said Frechette, author of six home improvement books and host of "ToolTalk" and "ToolTips for Women" — tool demonstration shows performed at Home & Garden Shows — where the audience participation is a key component of each performance.

Homeowners and construction professionals can turn to asktooltalk.com for solutions to their home repair, remodeling and construction problems. They will find answers to questions, articles on home improvement and reviews on new products and tools, reviewed by the site's experts.

"This site is for you and is supported by you through products purchased at the General Store, which offers books, business forms, plans, products, tools and hard-to-find items such as Pole-Wrap, a product designed to dress up unsightly basement support

Homeowners and construction professionals can find solutions to their home repair, remodeling and construction problems.

posts," said Frechette. Pole-Wrap, designed by a woman, is one of those products that is so simple you wonder why someone didn't come up with it sooner. With Pole-Wrap you avoid the necessity of having to build a box around the post. A box that, in addition to being labor intensive, is usually just as unattractive as the post itself.

Complex questions that need a detailed answer or a personal response can be handled through the site's Guaranteed Response Service.

Whatever the question, visitors will feel comfortable while gathering information that is both accurate and useful, according to Frechette.

His latest book, "Build Smarter with Alternative Materials" (Craftsman Book Company — \$37.45), helps consumers and professionals keep abreast of products that are environmentally safe, maintenance free or offer a longer life expectancy than standard building products currently on the market.

The book is available at bookstores. Call 800-829-8123, or visit www.costbook.com.

## WEEKLY SALES

### ALAMEDA

- 1410 Central Av - \$725,000
- 3437 Dutchcap Ln - \$420,000
- 1373 Fernside Bl - \$500,000
- 932 Mound St - \$580,000
- 2503 Noble Av - \$479,000
- 1541 Santa Clara C - \$430,000
- 211 Sheffield Rd - \$565,500
- 2101 Shoreline 410 - \$385,000
- 955 Shorepoint Ct - \$296,000

### ALBANY

- 711 Curtis St - \$517,000
- 742 Madison St - \$520,500
- 1125 Talbot Av - \$450,000

### BERKELEY

- 110 Brookside Dr - \$650,000
- 1217 Carlotta Av - \$618,000
- 2760 Dohr St - \$400,000
- 1718 Hearst Av - \$627,000
- 1087 Keeler Av - \$515,000
- 1503 MLK Jr Wy - \$521,000
- 22 Maryland Av - \$710,000
- 1611 T'sand Oaks - \$925,000
- 25 Twain Av - \$450,000

### EL CERRITO

- 7777 Baron Ct - \$492,000
- 2611 Carquinez Av - \$477,000
- 6530 Eureka Av - \$459,000
- 418 Richmond St - \$458,000

### EL SOBRANTE

- 701 Del Valle Cr - \$220,000
- 4347 Harmon Rd - \$220,000
- 6260 Hillside Dr - \$440,000
- 38 La Paloma Ct - \$165,000
- 4529 SP Dam Rd - \$325,000

### EMERYVILLE

- 5855 Norton 727 - \$613,500

### KENSINGTON

- 195 Purdue Av - \$540,000

### OAKLAND

- 1045 45th St - \$270,000
- 776 58th St - \$379,000
- 2431 67th Av - \$278,000
- 1500 68th Av - \$300,000
- 952 72nd St - \$309,000
- 2518 75th Av - \$224,500
- 2628 75th Av - \$232,000
- 2657 75th Av - \$249,000
- 2682 76th Av - \$350,000
- 1630 80th Av - \$275,000
- 1134 87th Av - \$185,000
- 3124 Arizona - \$460,000
- 1601 Arrowhead - \$616,000
- 7214 Arthur St - \$275,000
- 9026 Bancroft Av - \$263,000
- 260 Caldecott 102 - \$351,000
- 220 Caldecott 314 - \$312,000
- 630 Caldwell Rd - \$769,000
- 3521 California St - \$360,000
- 2497 Casa Ct - \$235,000
- 7309 Chabot Rd - \$500,000
- 6959 Charing Cr - \$1,122,000
- 9728 Cherry St - \$245,000
- 401 Florence Av - \$650,000
- 335 Glendale Av - \$380,000
- 5951 Johnston Dr - \$550,000
- 2641 La Cuesta Av - \$791,000
- 1830 Lakeshore Av - \$285,000
- 6029 MacArthur Bl - \$420,000
- 2916 Madeline St - \$385,000
- 3518 Magnolia St - \$80,000
- 3487 Midvale Av - \$262,000
- 311 Oak St #309 - \$528,000
- 311 Oak St #533 - \$581,000
- 750 Oakland 206 - \$251,000
- 722 Rand Av - \$712,500
- 3727 Randolph - \$434,000
- 4340 Rilea Wy - \$775,000
- 2070 Rosedale Av - \$335,000
- 806 Santa Ray Av - \$195,000
- 4432 Shepherd St - \$687,500

- 4548 St. Andrews - \$529,000
- 970 Stanford Av - \$370,000
- 356 Staten Av - \$635,500
- 456 Stow Av - \$518,000
- 3317 Suter St - \$325,000
- 1593 Trestle Glen - \$788,000
- 211 Tunis Rd - \$243,000
- 805 Walavista Av - \$510,000
- 4032 Walnut St - \$298,000
- 920 Wawona Av - \$935,000
- 1512 Westview - \$1,455,000
- 4193 Wilshire Bl - \$625,000
- 5431 Ygnacio - \$208,000
- 5969 Zinn Dr - \$750,000

### RICHMOND

- 17 15th St - \$170,000
- 450 20th St - \$219,000
- 626 24th St - \$320,000
- 675 26th St - \$290,000
- 633 27th Av - \$425,000
- 123 5th St - \$213,000
- 312 6th St - \$310,000
- 1547 7th St - \$230,000
- 1318 Battery St - \$235,000
- 3501 Bissell Av - \$509,500
- 812 Bradford Dr - \$221,000
- 1733 Coalanga Av - \$325,000
- 5318 Creely Av - \$208,000

### PIEDMONT

- 1018 Winsor Av - \$825,000

See SALES, Page B20

New Listing

## Piedmont Avenue Bungalow

Open Sunday 1:30-4:30

4351 Montgomery Street

Classic two bedroom, two bath bungalow. Attached garage with bonus room above. Ideal location close to Piedmont Avenue. Kitchen, both bathrooms, and master bedroom remodeled with tile and hardwood floors throughout. New electrical and plumbing, radiant floor heating system, security system, central vacuum, seismic upgrades, insulation, many new windows, and more. Pleasant neighborhood, easy parking, southern exposure, and convenient to everything.

Contact: David Melland (510) 652-8084 david@melland.com

Offered at \$545,000

more images and info at: [www.4351montgomery.com](http://www.4351montgomery.com)

# Insurance safety tips for summer: Be prepared

■ Prepare for possible summertime problems

**BOSTON** — Before you head out to enjoy the sunshine this summer, take a few minutes to secure your home and your safety. That's the message behind the updated and expanded "Tips for Summertime" section on the Homesite Insurance Web site: [www.homesite.com](http://www.homesite.com). The comprehensive online summer section helps homeowners evaluate their insurance situations and prepare for any problems that may arise. The section also offers advice on travel, home maintenance and safe summer recreation.

"The warmer weather months bring about a different set of hazards that may increase a homeowner's exposure to theft of personal belongings, damage to the home and injury to visitors on their property," explains Manny Rios, vice president of underwriting for Homesite Insurance.

"This makes summer a good time to review policies and secure necessary insurance coverage to assist with expenses if an unexpected mishap occurs. Our online summer edition is part of an ongoing effort to help consumers keep their homes safe and secure — and to help them be certain that they have the insurance coverage they need."

With these goals in mind, Homesite has developed an easy-to-use guide with sections that cover a range of critical topics:

- Proper coverage: Read "real life" stories of summer mishaps and tragedies, and find out if you have the coverage that meets your needs.
- Home maintenance projects: Learn how to use the warm weather months to make home repairs.
- Preparing your home for summer vacation: How to protect your home while you're away on vacation.
- Your vacation home or rental property: Insurance and maintenance tips for your "home away from home."
- Summer insurance checklist: Quickly and easily review your coverage.
- Summer recreation tips: From boating to barbecues, gardening to fireworks, here are some tips for having fun and staying safe.
- Tips for summer travel: Before you go away, check out the travel insurance and travel safety tips.
- Links: To help you learn more about summer insurance and safety

topics, links to useful and interesting Web sites are provided. Visit [www.homesite.com](http://www.homesite.com) or call 800-Homesite to speak to a licensed insurance specialist.

Homesite Group Inc. was formed in 1997 and launched in 1999 to provide U.S. consumers with low-priced homeowners insurance coverage. Homesite's insurance products are marketed through affinity groups, employers and selected service partners, as well as directly to consumers.

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Offered at \$749,000

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### 509 Cornell Avenue, Albany

This two plus bedroom Albany charmer offers a newly updated kitchen and bath, a large plus room and refinished hardwood floors. The ideal location is walking distance to BART, shopping schools and Solano Ave.

\$429,000

**Carol Heath-Kim**  
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[carolheathkim.realtor.com](http://carolheathkim.realtor.com)

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### 1672 Tacoma Avenue, Berkeley

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This charming light-filled bungalow, with well-proportioned rooms and lot Craftsman details, is located in the desirable Solano neighborhood. Living room with large picture window and built-ins adjacent to the fireplace, formal dining room, hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen, one-car garage and private back garden complete this home. Offered at \$559,000

**HELENE BARKIN**  
OFFICE: 652.2133/424  
[hbarkin@grubbco.com](mailto:hbarkin@grubbco.com)  
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## An Evening With JOHN EXLINE

Hi, I'm John Exline and I'd like to invite you to a FREE, 90-minute seminar this Tuesday called: **Generating Wealth in Bay Area Real Estate**

Which is worth more . . . The value in your house OR the amount you have in your stock portfolio or 401k? Answer: Most families have made more money in real estate than all of their other investments & retirement plans - combined.

One client recently concluded that he'd need to save over \$25,000 per year to be able to retire in 20-years. He has done much better than that with his real estate investments - and most of his gains were TAX-FREE. We'll show you how you can do this, and much more.

**What You'll Learn At The Seminar**  
Whether you currently own one house - or ten, you will learn NEW techniques that will take you to the next-level in building your real estate portfolio in the fastest & safest ways possible.

I'll share stories from many of my clients on how to acquire the most real estate with your current assets, job & income, how the recent tax laws give you tax-free or tax-deferred transactions, the best types of properties to acquire, how to use your 401k to acquire real estate, how to arrange equity-share agreements and so much more.

This is a free seminar and there is absolutely nothing to buy. Please join us this Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

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# MCC holders allowed to refinance

Many homeowners in this area hold Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC). These first-time home buyers received assistance in qualifying for a mortgage loan, through a tax credit.

The Alameda County Housing and Community Development Department recently announced some positive changes which can affect MCC holders. The ACHCDD is asking participating lenders to let MCC homeowners know their new options. MCC holders are now able to refinance more than once. They may be able to remove Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI) payments. The best news is that these homeowners, even though their refinances are now free to keep their MCC.

This will interest to those thinking of renovating, remodeling or consolidating debt. Refinancing may not be for everyone, but an agent can easily answer questions and concerns. Free evaluations are available.

A consultation will also help in making decisions on whether or not this is the right time to refinance. The analysis is free. Call a consultant at 800-799-3377.

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**OAKLAND \$350,000**  
A 4-FLEX For You! Opportunity Knocks Today! Near Home Depot. Needs TLC. 4 Units Vacant! Live in 1 unit and rent other 3 to help pay mortgage!!! Seller may carry loan!

**CASTRO VALLEY \$798,000**  
Five Canyons 4BD/2.5 Bath Gem. Plenty of updates throughout. A very desirable property for those who expect more and are difficult to satisfy. Call right now!

**UNION CITY \$499,000**  
Spacious 4BD house in desirable location. Property shows extremely well lots of fresh updates. Call today on this Jewel! Quick! Quick! Quick!

**BERKELEY \$4,200,000**  
4+ UNITS IN NORTH BERKELEY! North Berkeley 3 building complex. (rents by walking to BART. MAKE AN OFFER - 1 offers considered) BE CREATIVE. Call!

**BERKELEY \$749,000**  
Units in 2 Buildings. Nice unit mix. Good sized lot. Some separate utility meters. Nearby to Ashby BART & Berkeley's Historic Latin District

**BERKELEY \$540,000**  
NORTH BERKELEY/INCOME TRIPLEX in two separate buildings. Prime location. Living two streets Duplex and detached cottage. Market/Market Acme Bakery Westside. Ideal deal for Owner occupants. Call today!

**BERKELEY \$1,000,000**  
BERKELEY 6-UNIT APARTMENT 1.6-280 Units ALL VACANT! Owner recently completed lots of remodel type work. Property shows extremely well. A real charmer. Call us today for information on this 6 x 2 beautiful

**HAYWARD \$480,000**  
4BD/3BA home, 2-car garage. Near BART, shopping, schools. Approx. 12 years young. A real pride of ownership home shows excellent! Call today.

**NORTH OAKLAND \$850,000**  
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3/2 - Sun-drenched and spacious home with remodeled kitchen including granite counters, hardwood floors, SF & GG views. 724 Gateview Avenue Open 2-4

**EL CERRITO - NEW LISTING! \$319,000**  
2/1.5 - Huge 2-car garage! Over 1,200 square feet. Fresh, move-in condition. Serene Wildcat Canyon location with views! 503 Vista Heights Road Open 2-4

**BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$345,000**  
2/1.5 - Verdant cobblestone pathway to very private end unit Townhouse/condo freshly painted & staged. Gorgeous! 3038 Halcyon Court Unit E Open 2-4

**OAKLAND - NEW LISTING! \$559,000**  
4/2.5 - Unique tri-level home on a quiet street. Beautiful back yard with a creek running through it. 3979 Whittie Avenue Open 2-4

**ALBANY - NEW LISTING! \$335,000**  
2/1 - Perfect opportunity! Fixer in a great location! Wonderful creekside yard, attached garage. It's the best deal in town! 617 Evelyn Avenue Open 2-4

**KENSINGTON - NEW! \$575,000**  
3/2.5 - Serene home on a large, secluded lot. Many fruit trees include avocado, pear and more. 85 Norwood Avenue Open 2-4

**BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$479,000**  
2+1/1.5 - Magical creekside setting in move-in condition! "Plum Lucky" multiple upgrades. Detached studio building. 1195 Cornell Avenue Open 2-4

**OAKLAND \$379,000**  
2/1 - Plus space bungalow with period details on a great street in a prime neighborhood. Hardwood floors, garden. 3914 Woodruff Avenue Open 2-4:30

**ALBANY \$729,000**  
5+3 - Quiet street, great location. Architect-designed addition includes dramatic master suite with view. Photos & more information @ www.bobbilumberg.com. 1027 Peralta Avenue Open 2-4

**BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$499,000**  
2+1/1.5 - Overlooking Wildcat Canyon on a quiet cul-de-sac. Vaulted ceilings living room, hardwood floors, fireplace, wrap-around deck, updated kitchen & bath. 659 Vistamont Avenue Open 2-4:30

**BERKELEY \$749,000**  
3/2 - Quiet serenity & beauty awaits you in this stunning contemporary near Tilden Park. Architect designed. Mt. Tam views Photos & more @ www.bobbilumberg.com. 561 Vistamont Avenue Open 2-4

**OAKLAND \$599,000**  
3/2.5 - Sunny & bright, jazzy Montclair Contemporary. New hardwood floors, fresh decoration, gorgeous remodeled kitchen and more! Entertainers delight! 6176 Valley View Road Open 2-4

**EL CERRITO - NEW LISTING! \$349,000**  
3/1 - Home needs TLC. A wonderful location close to BART and across the street from El Cerrito Plaza. Hardwood floors, split level. Sold "As Is". 409 Liberty Street Open 2-4

**BERKELEY \$925,000**  
3+2 - Unique Contemporary with spectacular panoramic Bay views from every window. Serene garden settings. Close to UC Berkeley & Gourmet Ghetto. 987 Euclid Avenue Open 2-4

**BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$589,000**  
2+1 - Craftsman bungalow with built-ins, updated bath, wedgewood stove, deck off kitchen. Thousand Oaks neighborhood. 1822 Tacoma Avenue Open 2-4

**BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$589,000**  
3/1.5 - Large Craftsman near Monterey Market. Custom built, with many extras, great yard for play and many fruit trees. Charm throughout. 1328 Carlotta Avenue Open 2-4

**BERKELEY \$618,000**  
2+1/1.5 - Stylish and dramatic! Near Monterey Market. Custom designed kitchen with vaulted ceilings leads to large, sunny deck and yard. 1348 Sacramento Street Open 2-4

**BERKELEY \$389,000**  
2/1 - Very charming brown shingle cottage located in the heart of Berkeley. Open floorplan. Expansive garden with sunny deck. Easy access to shops, UC & BART. 2241 Jefferson Avenue Open 2-4

**OAKLAND \$789,000**  
3+2/2.5 - Stylish, sophisticated townhome with mesmerizing views from decks on both levels. Dramatic living room, Tuscan atrium, wine cellar, Jacuzzi. 18 Windward Hill Open 2-4

**RICHMOND - NEW LISTING! \$319,000**  
4/2 - And yes, it has a view! Over 1,500 square feet. Fireplace in living room, family room, and deck off kitchen. 2-car garage. Nice area. 1064 View Drive Open 2-4

**OAKLAND \$249,000**  
Loft - Jazzy live/work unit. Built-out mezzanine overlooking the living area. Vaulted ceilings with skylights. More information and photos at www.sagarabedian.com. 730 29th Street Unit C3 Open 2-4

**POINT RICHMOND \$1,500,000**  
Investment Opportunity! - Five stylish townhome-style units, each with 2 bedrooms & 2 baths, attached garage, views, decks, vaulted ceilings. By Appointment

**OAKLAND \$499,000**  
Triplex - Ideal for owner/occupant. Great location. Close to BART, near Piedmont Avenue. Renovated/converted in 1989. Low operating expenses. 3934 Opal Street Open 2-4 publish 7/11/03

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Unique tri-level 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on a quiet street.  
Beautiful back yard with a creek running through it.

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**2870 Claremont Blvd., Berkeley**  
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**OAKMORE** \$820,000  
**4066 Oakmore Rd.**  
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**DIMOND** \$215,000  
**2901 MacArthur #204**  
First time open! This two bedroom, one bath condo has an East-facing balcony and great morning light. The building has a garden court, in-house laundry and secure parking. Conveniently located to public transportation, freeway access and shopping. TOM ERWIN



**ALBANY** \$449,000  
**935 Evelyn Avenue**  
Delightful Mediterranean home just steps away from Solano Avenue, community center and school. Pleasant yard off family room, spacious updated kitchen, dining area built-ins, fireplace, hardwood floors. 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. JODY DWORZAK



**BERKELEY** \$2,500,000  
**1104 Keith Avenue**  
Unique property, 2 houses on 2 separate parcels. 1/4 acre. 8+ bedrooms, 9 baths. House can be adapted to a multitude of living purposes. Ideal for religious, fraternal, or social groups. Awesome view of SF Bay. MARY HANNA



**MONTCLAIR** \$529,000  
**7134 Saroni Drive**  
New listing! Sunny and private 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, with family room or home office. Brick fireplace, hardwood flooring, skylights, gas kitchen, private view decks, hot tub, fenced yard for pets. HAL CASTLE



**BERKELEY** \$350,000  
**737 Neilson**  
Darling Thousand Oaks Bungalow! Two bedrooms, one bath. Tree-lined street, needs your wonderful touch. CINDY BOZE



**LAKE MERRITT** \$599,000  
**200 Lakeside Dr. #802**  
Stunning views from every room of this two bedroom, two bath condo at The Regillus. Amenities include panoramic views from every room, hardwood floors, original architectural detailing, a newly renovated kitchen w/granite counters, stainless steel appliances and halogen lighting. TOM ERWIN



**MAXWELL PARK** \$289,000  
**4420 Fleming Avenue**  
New Listing! Charming vintage 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Living room with fireplace, hardwood floors, remodeled kitchen. Beautiful front and back garden with fruit trees. Large deck. ADRIANA GIACOMELLI

282 Whitmore St.  
**PIEDMONT/COLLEGE AVE.**  
**\$700,000**  
UNIQUE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY! Two money-making units sitting on prime lot zoned R-70. Will accommodate eleven-unit development. Literally walk to BART and all transportation, shopping, theater and restaurants. However, it's secluded and "off the beaten track." Call listing agent for proforma. D.C. HODGES

**MONTCLAIR**  
2 lots for sale. Montclair walking distance to Village, upslope, 7,000 sq. ft., wooded area. \$150,000  
Piedmont Pines: 36,000 sq. ft., gentle upslope with building pads. \$325,000  
MARY HANNA

6363 Christie  
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Luxury Emeryville High-rise. Panoramic Marin & North Bay views. Spacious 1 bedroom unit with full amenities - 24 hour front door security, pool, tennis, fitness center, EZ commute, walk to shops, movies, restaurants. LOIS JOHNSON

2601 College Ave.  
**SOUTH UC CAMPUS** \$329,000  
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- Three Bedrooms, Two Bathrooms
- Family Room Adjacent to Kitchen
- Rear Deck Opens to Fenced Yard
- Attached Two-car Garage/Interior Access
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- Combination Laundry room/Workshop
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\*\*5.643% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 loan amount and includes points. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$322,700 is approximately \$1,857. Minimum loan amount \$100,000. Homeowners' insurance is required.  
\*\*\*6.012% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$500,000 and includes points. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$500,000 is approximately \$2,997. Homeowners' insurance is required.  
Above programs are based on primary, single family residences, low-income, and condominiums only. No prepayment penalty required. Cash out allowed up to 75% loan-to-value. Other restrictions may apply. All credit applications are subject to credit qualifications and underwriting requirements. Rates as of July 8th, 2003 are subject to change without notice.

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**CLAREMONT HILLS** \$945,000  
3400 Hillcrest Dr. Sun 2 - 5  
3+BR 3+BA 1999 built; great floor plan & separation of space; approx 3220 sq. ft.; Kit/Fam Rm combo-granite, HWF, SS; usable front & rear yard; light views.  
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**CLAREMONT HILLS** \$945,000  
3400 Hillcrest Dr. Sun 2 - 5  
3+BR 3+BA 1999 built; great floor plan & separation of space; approx 3220 sq. ft.; Kit/Fam Rm combo-granite, HWF, SS; usable front & rear yard; light views.  
Call Joan Alford 510-339-4700

**PIEDMONT** \$1,389,000  
11 Dormidera Ave. Sun 2 - 5  
Just listed in central Piedmont! 4+BR/3BA, fabulous new kitchen, adjoining family room + sun-porch, gleaming hardwood floors.  
Call George Karsant 510-339-4700

**MONTCLAIR** \$924,000  
6058 Fairlane Dr. Sun 2 - 5  
4 BR 3 BA 4-yr-old custom home w/bridge view, level-in, lots of light, hardwood floors. Just reduced in price for a quick sale. Very clean-move right in!  
Call Judy Ackerman 510-339-4700

**BERKELEY** \$359,000  
1243 Evelyn Ave. Sun 2-4  
2 BR 1 BA Adorable condo nestles in secluded setting. Large kit, w/Wedgewood stove, garage, rustic wood burning stove & sun porch. Near Westbrae shops.  
Call Michelle Holm 510-486-1495

**RICHMOND N&E** \$339,995  
2828 Maricopa Ave. Sun 2 - 5  
3 BR 2 BA Spacious N&E Richmond home w/ hardwood flrs, formal dining room, bright updated kitchen & a private yard. The 3rd bedroom is a master suite! Remodeled bath.  
Call Maxine Malberg 510-486-1495

**UPPER OAKMORE** \$829,000  
2317 Bywood Dr. Sun 1 - 5  
3 BR 2.5 BA Gracious Monterey Colonial boasts panoramic views from many rooms. Large formal LR & DR, master suite, family room, wine cellar, gardens & much more.  
Call Donna Conroy 510-339-4700

**MONTCLAIR** \$675,000  
9120 Skyline Blvd. Sun 2 - 5  
4 BR 3 BA Like living on a country lane. Light & bright level entry home is close to Redwood Park. Updated eat-in kitchen & baths, family room & 2 fireplaces.  
Call Terry Kulka 510-339-4700

**MAXWELL PARK** \$369,000  
5632 Picardy Dr. N. Sun 2 - 5  
2 BR 1 BA Sweet Cottage on fabbed street; HWF, stone FP, FDR, sunny breakfast room. Live on Christmas Tree Lane in a house full of character & Normandy charm.  
Call Lydia Nayo 510-339-4700

**MILLS COLLEGE** \$249,000  
5835 Kingsley Cir. Sun 2 - 4:30  
2 BR 1 BA Today's complete starter in community of caring people! Darling in, more than meets the eye. Updated fixtures, tile floors/carpet, small patio & mint garage.  
Call James Brown 510-486-1495

**MONTCLAIR** \$1,980,000  
6260 Fairlane Dr. Sun 2 - 5  
5 BR 3 BA Stunning and sophisticated home w/ SP, Bay & Bridge views! Gracious & open spaces are perfect for elegant entertaining. Amenities galore!  
Call George Karsant 510-339-4700

**CLAREMONT HEIGHTS** \$1,349,000  
49 Evergreen Ln. Sun 2 - 4:30  
4 BR 2.5 BA New construction. Level back yard, filtered Bay view & fabulous finishes. Gourmet kitchen, family room, formal living & dining, lavish master.  
Call Terry Anthony 510-339-4700

**MONTCLAIR** \$1,089,000  
4 BR 3.5 BA Spacious 4-level 4+BR/3.5BA designed by owner/licensed architect. Great floor plan, master suite w/FP, Red Oak floors, 2-car garage, gourmet kitchen.  
Call Reva Tolbert 510-339-4700

**MONTCLAIR** \$995,000  
4 BR 3.5 BA Stunning new Contemporary close to Montclair Village. Built-in space, formal dining, kitchen/family room combo, master suite opens to terrace yard.  
Call Donna Conroy 510-339-4700

**CLAREMONT HEIGHTS** \$1,275,000  
41 Evergreen Lane. Sun 2 - 4:30  
3 BR 2.5 BA New construction. Level yard. Bay view, award-winning architect design. Lavish master suite, chef's kitchen, well-appointed family room.  
Call Carol Brown 510-339-4700

**CLAREMONT HILLS** \$945,000  
6826 Sherwood Dr. Sun 2 - 5  
3+BR 3+BA 1999 built; great floor plan & separation of space; approx 3220 sq. ft.; Kit/Fam Rm combo-granite, HWF, SS; usable front & rear yard; light views.  
Call Joan Alford 510-339-4700

**SEQUOYAH HEIGHTS** \$499,000  
3 BR 1.5 BA Level-in home on approx. 1/2 acre. Corner lot, well-maintained, HWF, dining room opens to nice patio & lush garden. Pride of ownership.  
Call Nomi Robinson 510-339-4700

**CROCKER HIGHLANDS** \$975,000  
3 BR 2.5 BA Beautifully renovated Italianate, Old World charm, wonderful living room, remodeled eat-in kitchen, FDR, library, rec room, private yard.  
Call Dian Hymer 510-339-4700

**CROCKER HIGHLANDS** \$799,000  
700 Trestle Glen. Sun 2 - 5  
3 BR 2.5 BA Light & bright 2-story Traditional with loads of charm, level yard, big eat-in kitchen, living & dining rooms. Close to Lakeshore shops.  
Call Terry Kulka 510-339-4700

**LAUREL HEIGHTS (UPPER)** \$379,900  
2 BR 1 BA Darling Traditional, Living room w/fireplace, dining room, hardwood, garage/interior access, front/back yards, level lot, close to Hwy 13 & 580. Cute!  
Call Victor Ratto 510-339-4700

**ROCKY HIGHLANDS** \$975,000  
3 BR 2BA home up to \$1,200,000. Please call Josh Whitmer, 510-981-3027.

**PIEDMONT** \$900,000  
2-3BR home. Needing renovation O.K. Up to \$900,000. Please call Maura Allen, 510-981-3034.

**6137 LaSalle Avenue**  
Oakland  
510.339.4700

**1495 Shattuck Avenue**  
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Looking for a new home? Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on page B18.

## www.KeikoSellsHomes.com

Take a Virtual Tour



2847 JOHNSON AVE.  
ALAMEDA  
\$749,000

Open Saturday & Sunday  
July 12 & 13  
2:00 - 4:00

### Come to our Twilight Open House Friday, July 11, 6:00-8:00

Nestled on a quiet street in Alameda's beautiful Fernside Neighborhood. This home offers over 3000 sq.ft. of luxury living with 5 bedrooms and 3 full baths. The living room has arched doorways, fireplace and beautiful hardwood floors. The newly remodeled family room offers a great place to entertain and you're just steps away to a midnight swim in your private swimming pool.

For a private showing please call

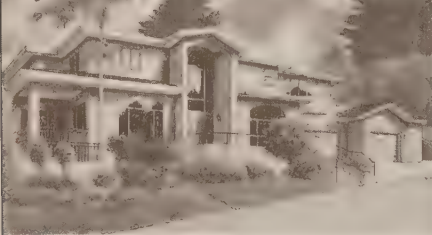
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6 DILIGENCE

## JUST SOLD IN CLAREMONT PINES



95 WESTMINSTER DRIVE  
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## The GRUBB Co.

NEW LISTING



6259 Ruthland Road, Montclair  
Offered at \$649,000  
Open Sunday 2-4:30



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of this and other current listings.

### New Listing

OPEN SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2-4:30PM  
300 Galindo Street, Oakland

This three plus bedroom home located on a cul-de-sac off Fruitvale Avenue is a true one of a kind. Two bedrooms and one tandom bath on the main floor. The master suite and plus room are upstairs and a gracious rumpus room with plenty of storage is on the lower level. This home is worth the look.

Offered at \$410,000



**Chuck Corwin**  
Broker Associate  
(510) 338-1353



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### Charming Oakland Hills Listing

30 Hiller Drive, Oakland  
OPEN SUNDAY JULY 13, 1-4 PM  
Airy, elegant, one-level living with bay views. Gourmet kitchen, family room, office, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, private patio and pool.

Offered at \$975,000



**Carol Arnold** 510 • 869 • 4206



### Coming soon... NEAR TILDEN PARK

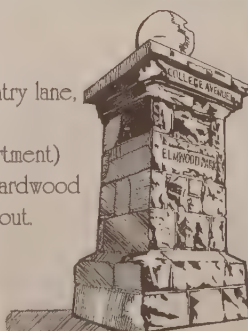
Stunning contemporary on a quiet country lane, minutes of Tilden Park.

4 bedroom, 3 bath (in-law studio apartment) on a large sunny lot. New kitchen and hardwood floors. Freshly painted inside and out.

Listed at \$1,095,000



For more information call  
**Marlene Leverette**  
(510) 883-7003  
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**721 Santa Barbara Road, Berkeley**  
Enchanting Mediterranean located on over 1/3 acre of serene gardens with bay views. Showcase Barrel Vaulted Living Room Gracious indoor / outdoor living. Perfect for entertaining. Four Bedrooms with Patio/ Balcony and Bath Access

Offered at \$1,100,000

Consider creating a compound with:

**715 Santa Barbara Road, Berkeley**  
Lovely double-sized lot with Creek side setting in one of Berkeley Hills most coveted neighborhoods. Tear-down house.  
Offered at \$455,000

**Nearly 3 Acres Near Claremont**  
Dream Estate/ Development Opportunity  
An opportunity for bay view development potential or possible subdivision. Walk to BART, shopping, & restaurants. Easy access to highways.  
Offered at: \$1,500,000

### COMING SOON... A Real Beauty

**On Colusa, near Fat Apple**  
A pristine two bedroom house, completely remodeled. Garage sweetly converted into home overlooking inspiring gardens and mature landscaping.

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**Nancy Rothman**  
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nrothman@pacunion.com



### New Listing! OPEN SUNDAY, JULY 13, 1-4PM



100 Palm Avenue, Piedmont

It's as beautiful inside as it is outside! This classic traditional has it all. Gourmet kitchen, family room, 5BR/3BA and a sunny level yard.

Offered at \$1,295,000



**Nancy Rothman**  
510.339.2169 ext. 209  
nrothman@pacunion.com



100 Palm Avenue, Piedmont

It's as beautiful inside as it is outside! This classic traditional has it all. Gourmet kitchen, family room, 5BR/3BA and a sunny level yard.

Offered at \$1,295,000



**Nancy Rothman**  
510.339.2169 ext. 209  
nrothman@pacunion.com





Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section. The first place to look when looking for a new home.

## RECENT PIEDMONT SALES



111 Highland Avenue  
3+ bedrooms, 2.5 baths

155 Lake Avenue  
2 bedrooms, 1 bath

Kathleen Callahan  
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510/338-1343  
HOME: 510/595-9119



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## The GRUBB Co.

## Piedmont



144 Wildwood Gardens  
Originally offered at \$1,150,000  
Represented the Seller



133 Caperton Avenue  
Originally offered at \$1,950,000  
Represented the Seller



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A gorgeous two-story traditional that would be right at home in the Oakland Hills, instead it is situated on a very private acre in a neighborhood offering 12 years of top rated public schools. If you want wood floors, high ceilings, gracious public rooms, a cook's dream kitchen and systems which only date back to 1991, please come through the tunnel and see this 4 bedroom, 3 bath beauty.

41 MERRILL CIRCLE, MORAGA • OPEN SUNDAY 1-4  
OFFERED AT \$1,425,000

2 THEATRE SQUARE, ORINDA

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LORI LEGLER  
Office: 925.258.1111 Ext. 216  
Cell: 925.286.1244  
[llegler@aapr.com](mailto:llegler@aapr.com)



## Piedmont Pines Open Sunday ~ July 13th ~ 2:00 to 4:30



6256 Melville Drive  
Offered at \$1,295,000

This English half-timbered home has been lovingly maintained by the present owners for 40 years. Situated on a private knoll and surrounded by a spectacular 1/3 acre landscaped garden, which has been featured on the Park Day School tour, it offers a Bay view, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, a new gourmet kitchen, adjoining family room with fireplace, a study, and elegant living and dining rooms with crown moldings.

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AMERICAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
ST. PAUL, Minn. — What are the essential steps needed to promote a healthy garden? The American Phytopathological Society, an organization of professional "plant doctors," offers the following suggestions guaranteed to help those new to gardening and seasoned enthusiasts alike.

■ **Select healthy plant material.** Annual flowers and vegetable seedlings should be vigorous, show good color, and have no dead or yellowed areas. Avoid cell packs with missing or sickly plants. Trees and shrubs should show good color and foliage size. Avoid specimens that have mechanical damage to the trunk or larger limbs.

Bulbs, tubers, roots and corms should be firm and have no obvious mechanical damage or mold.

- Look for plant varieties with

See **GARDEN**, Page B20

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Agent: Rg/Max

# NEW LISTING



41 Chadbourne Way, Oakland Hills

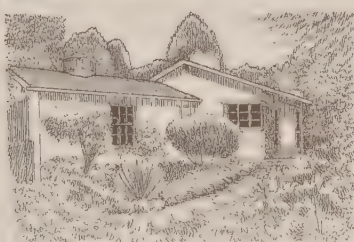
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Sophisticated elegance with sweeping San Francisco views. This private and exquisitely redesigned home features vaulted beamed ceiling, a spacious great room - perfect for entertaining, dramatic master retreat with relaxing bath and jacuzzi. Three bedrooms and two full baths.

*Offered at \$649,000*



SHERRY BENNINGER  
OFFICE: 339.0400/240  
www.SherryBenninger.com  
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# North Berkeley!

**25 Stoddard Way**  
**Open Sunday**  
**July 13, 2-5 p.m.**

This custom one-level home is located on a quiet North Berkeley Hills cul-de-sac. Built in 1940, the home features many charming built-ins, recently re-finished hardwood floors and a mature garden designed by prominent landscape architect, Mai Arbogast! 2+ bedrooms, 1+ baths.

**\$625,000**



**Julie Lehman, Listing Agent**  
**510-986-9556**



*Rosie Nysaether Proudly Offers:*

**5681 Chelton Drive • Montclair**  
Open this Sunday 2:00 - 4:30

Located on an oversized lot with a gentle down slope, this 2+1.5+ home is for someone who wants to supplement the mortgage with rental income. "legal" studio in-law with separate entry. Also features spacious decks, a glimpse of the Bay, and a 2-car detached garage, all just minutes from Montclair Village.

**Offered at . . . \$589,000**

For more information, call: **(510) 339-4567**

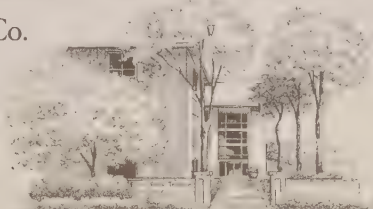


5834 Moraga, Oakland

**JENNIFER ARTHUR**  
(510) 339-8400  
(510) 339-4553

**Open Sunday  
July 13  
2-5 p.m.**

PHILIP M. L.



670 Vernon Street # 107

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Located in one of Oakland's most desirable locations, this pristine end-unit offers spectacular views of the Rose Garden and Piedmont hills. This special condominium features two master suites, a spacious living room with fireplace and a formal dining room.

Offered at \$399,000



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# Weekend OPEN HOMES

Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated

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Alameda	Alameda	Albany	Berkeley	El Cerrito
\$54,000 2830 Clay St 3BD/2BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty Mark Playsted/Russ Grant	\$560,000 1418 Pearl 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty Marilyn Pomeroy	\$549,000 724 Gateview Ave. 3 Bd/2BA Open Sun 2-4 RED OAK REALTY Saraya Motley	\$695,000 2200 Marin Ave. 3 Bd/2.5BA Open Sun 1-4 RED OAK REALTY Josh Levine	\$429,000 1319 Scott St. 3BD/2BA Open Sun 1-4 RED OAK REALTY Robin Kline
\$180,000 1311 Webster St #304 1BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 Main Island 510-882-5232 Kane & Associates Lena Sazo	\$576,000 3229 Fairview Dr. 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-748-1134 Gallagher & Lindsey Mary Carder	\$575,000 1041 Ordway Street 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-524-9888x33 Berkeley Hills Realty Bill & Tracy	\$695,000 54 Colorado Ave. 2+BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co. Ronald Sterling Eggherman	\$525,000 2712 Sonoma St. 3BD/2BA Open Sunday 2-5 Prudential Nancy
\$237,500 461 A Central Ave Studio/1BD Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-748-1103 Gallagher & Lindsey Signe Nelson	\$579,000 2615 Calhoun St 3BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4 Main Island 510-521-5475 Kane & Associates Hanna Fry	\$579,000 1516 Sonoma Ave. 3BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co. The Ratcliffes	\$710,000 1199 Ordway Ave. 4BD/2.5BA Sun 2-4:30 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Chris Cohn	\$550,000 6921 Fairview 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-339-0400 Marvin Gardens Merriilyn Rhodes/Cy
\$399,000 1562 Lincoln Ave #C 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 Main Island 510-610-5009 Kane & Associates Sally Han	\$594,000 1329 Crown Dr 3+BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4 510-614-4839 Harbor Bay Realty Bill Doug-	\$729,000 1027 Peralta Ave. 5+BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4 510-292-2002 RED OAK REALTY Dianne Arancibia	\$749,000 37 Eucalyptus Path 4BD/2.5BA Sun 2-4:30 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co. Diane Verducci	\$600,000 805 Arlington Blvd 4BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-280-2104 Millstein & Associates Candace H
\$400,000 2101 Shoreline Dr. #488 2BD/1.5BA Sun 2-4:30 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Kurt Buchholz	\$619,000 48 Invincible Court 2+BD/3.5BA Open Sun 2-4 Marina Village 510-531-2274 Kane & Associates Wendy Sando	\$589,000 1822 Tacoma St. 2+BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 510-280-2159 RED OAK REALTY Amanda Burton	\$749,000 561 Vistamont Ave. 3 BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-280-2104 RED OAK REALTY Tom Cone	\$665,000 8653 Don Carol Dr 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-339-4700 Millstein & Associates Gene
\$439,000 1107 Central Ave 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 Main Island 510-919-8934 Kane & Associates Steve Andersen	\$628,000 1616 Fernside Blvd #B 3BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4 Main Island 510-523-6058 x238 Kane & Associates Joanna Letizia	\$339,000 2632 Warring St #2 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 510-524-9888x19 Berkeley Hills Realty Arlene Baxter	\$875,000 2902 Hillegass 4+BD/3BA Sun 2-4:30 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Reva Tolbert	\$665,000 8653 Don Carol Dr 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-339-4700 Millstein & Associates Gene
\$439,000 3236 Adams St 3BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 Main Island 925-736-7651 Kane & Associates Kathie Ng	\$649,000 1372 Versailles 4BD/1.5BA Open Sun 2-4 Main Island 510-865-1635 Kane & Associates Lois Hoffman	\$345,000 3038 Halcyon Ct. #E 2+BD/1.5 BA Open Sun 2-4 510-280-2170 RED OAK REALTY Virginia Peri	\$925,000 987 Euclid Ave. 3 Bd/2 BA Open Sun 2-4 510-280-2115 RED OAK REALTY Stan Montchew	\$535,000 5547 Conestoga Way 3BD/2BA Open Sun 1-4 925-736-7651 Preferred Properties Daniel
\$444,000 152 Centre Court 2BD/2.5BA Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Isle 510-521-1177 Windermere Properties, East Bay Peter Fletcher	\$675,000 1315 Santa Clara Ave 4+BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4 510-748-1168 Gallagher & Lindsey Kirk Knight	\$379,000 CONDO 1241 Evelyn Ave. 2BD/1BA OPEN 2-4 510-527-8777 Investment House Realty Jeanne Yeh, Bkr.	\$1,295,000 2810 Claremont Blvd. 4BD/2.5BA Sun 2-4:30 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co. Bebe McRae	\$499,888 4390 Gibraltar Dr 4BD/2BA Open Sun 1-4 510-339-0400 Alameda Realty
\$445,000 2517 Clay St 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 510-748-1116 Gallagher & Lindsey Alice Garvin	\$689,000 25 Courageous Court 2+BD/3.5BA Open Sat 2-4:30 Marina Village 510-531-2274 Kane & Associates Wendy Sando	\$389,000 2241 Jefferson Ave. 2 BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 510-280-2126 RED OAK REALTY Lelf Jensen	\$1,325,000 652 Coventry Rd. 4BD/3BA Sun 2-4:30pm 510-622-0006 McGuire Real Estate Grazina Blivins	\$499,888 4390 Gibraltar Dr 4BD/2BA Open Sun 1-4 510-339-0400 Alameda Realty
\$449,000 3258 San Jose Ave 2BD Open Sun 2-4:30 510-522-5827/521-4045 Bayside Real Estate Mark Wyman/Janelle Spatz	\$709,000 1542 Pearl St 3+BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4 510-748-1132 Gallagher & Lindsey Dennis Keefe	\$469,000 1505 McGee Ave 2 BD/1BA Open Sunday 2-4 510-868-1481 Prudential Candice Economide	\$1,329,000 1418 Spruce St 6 BD/5BA Open Sun 2-5 510-595-7699 Remax East Bay Hills Higgins	\$499,888 4390 Gibraltar Dr 4BD/2BA Open Sun 1-4 510-339-0400 Alameda Realty
\$459,000 4 Courageous Court 2BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Marina Village 510-531-2274 Kane & Associates Wendy Sando	\$749,000 2847 Johnson Ave 5BD/3BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-522-4449 Gallagher & Lindsey Keliko McDonah	\$479,000 1195 Cornell Ave 2+BD/1.5 BA Open Sun 2-4 510-280-2107 RED OAK REALTY Marsha Quick	\$1,329,000 1418 Spruce St 6 BD/5BA Open Sun 2-5 510-595-7699 Remax East Bay Hills Higgins	\$499,888 4390 Gibraltar Dr 4BD/2BA Open Sun 1-4 510-339-0400 Alameda Realty
\$465,000 1543 Lincoln Lane 3BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4 Main Island 510-523-0746 Kane & Associates Mindy Hart	\$829,500 1624 San Antonio Ave 4BD/1.5BA Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4816 Harbor Bay Realty Sid Boring	\$499,000 659 Vistamont Ave. 2+BD/1.5 BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-280-2177 RED OAK REALTY Merritt Levine	\$1,329,000 1418 Spruce St 6 BD/5BA Open Sun 2-5 510-595-7699 Remax East Bay Hills Higgins	\$499,888 4390 Gibraltar Dr 4BD/2BA Open Sun 1-4 510-339-0400 Alameda Realty
\$492,500 2515 Otis Drive 2BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4814 Harbor Bay Realty Hanna Connie	\$869,000 927 San Antonio 4BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-523-2314/483-1676 Kane & Associates Sally Rudloff/Krystyna Nowak	\$499,950 1354 Hearst Ave. 3BD/1.5BA Sat. & Sun 12-4 510-251-6000 Help-U-Sell Eastbay Tony Wright	\$1,329,000 1418 Spruce St 6 BD/5BA Open Sun 2-5 510-595-7699 Remax East Bay Hills Higgins	\$499,888 4390 Gibraltar Dr 4BD/2BA Open Sun 1-4 510-339-0400 Alameda Realty
\$499,000 336 Magnolia Dr 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-614-4842 Harbor Bay Realty Coly Young	\$1,200,000 2034 San Antonio 4BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4710 Harbor Bay Realty Walt/Judy Jacobs	\$525,000 42 Slater Ln. 2+BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co. Paul Templeton	\$1,329,000 1418 Spruce St 6 BD/5BA Open Sun 2-5 510-595-7699 Remax East Bay Hills Higgins	\$499,888 4390 Gibraltar Dr 4BD/2BA Open Sun 1-4 510-339-0400 Alameda Realty



# Weekend OPEN HOMES

Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated

www.contracostatimes.com

Oga		Oakland		Oakland		Oakland		Oakland	
0 2099 Ascot Drive #111 Sunday 2-4:30 Vikki Landes	1 BD/1 BA 510-339-9290 Vikki Landes	\$369,000 4260 Suter Street Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential	2 BD/1.5 BA 510-339-9290 Vince Morgan	\$545,000 4351 Montgomery Street Sun. 1:30-4:30pm For Sale By Owner	2BD/2BA 510-652-8084 David Melland	\$729,000 3717 Balfour Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate	3+BD/2+BA 510-338-1319 Ann Nichols	\$1,295,000 852 Mountain Open Sun 2-4:30/Montclair Hills Prudential	5+BD/3.5 BA 510-428-0900 Scott Thompson
000 41 Merrill Circle South Sun. 1-4 Inel Realtors	4BD/3BA 925-258-1111 Cynthia & Lori	\$369,000 646-58th Street Open Sun 2-4:30 Prude ntial	2 BD/1 BA 510-339-9290 D.A. Hammond	\$549,000 19 Eastwood Ct. Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate	3BD/1BA 510-338-1314/1308 S. Klemmer & D. Cohen	\$749,000 6125 Ascot Dr. Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate	4BD/3BA 510-338-1308 Dick Cohen	\$1,295,000 6256 Melville Drive Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair	4BD/2.5BA 510-531-7000 x263 Noll Davis
000 217 Bayo Vista #107 Sun 2-4 Associates	1BD/1BA 510-508-1215 John McNulty	\$369,000 5632 Picardy Drive N. Sun. 2-5 Coldwell Banker	2BD/1BA 510-339-4700 Lydia Nayo	\$550,000 18 Veteran Way Open Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills Realty	2BD/1.5BA 510-524-9888x13 Peter Damm	\$759,000 20 Pine Hills Ct Open Sat & Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates	5BD/2BA 510-290-0130 Tuyen Nguyen	\$1,298,000 711 Grizzly Terrace Dr. Sun 2-4:30pm McGuire Real Estate	4BD/3.5BA 415-296-2108 Robin Dustan
00 2901 MacArthur #204 Sun 2-4:30 Dimond	2BD/1BA 510-339-8900 x230 Tom Erwin	\$375,000 3562 Kempton Way Open Sun. 2-4:30 Wells & Bennett Realtors	2BD/1BA 510-531-7000 x286 Heidi Tuggle	\$559,000 3979 Whittle Ave. Open Sun. 2-4 RED OAK REALTY	4 BD/2.5BA 510-280-2147 Scott Bovard	\$759,900 4 Binnack Hill Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	3BD/2.5BA 510-339-0400 Elizabeth Dickson	\$1,325,000 1029 Amito Drive Sun. 2-4:30 Oakland Hills	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-4700 Preston Grant
00 303 Adams #402 Sun 2-4:30/Lake Merritt Vikki Landes	1 BD/1 BA 510-845-0211 Helen Mar	\$375,000 8401 Ney Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	2BD/1BA 510-652-2133 Diane Verducci	\$560,000 6440 Pinehaven Road Open Sun 2-4:30/Montclair Prudential	3+BD/3 BA 510-339-9290 Gene Boomer	\$768,000 11710 Cranford Way Open Sunday 2-4:30 Prudential	4 BD/3 BA 510-339-9290 George Millirons	\$1,349,000 49 Evergreen Lane Sun. 2-4:30 Claremont Heights	4BD/2.5BA 510-339-4700 Terry Anthony
00 3440 Coolidge Ave. Sun 2-4 2-Sell	1BD/1BA 510-530-6330 Howard Kane	\$379,000 1059 El Centro #4 Open Sunday 2-4:30 Prudential	3 BD/2 BA 510-428-0900 Hernan Luna	\$569,000 4629 Mountain Blvd Open Sun 1-4 Prudential CA Realty	4BD/3.5BA 510-701-8879 Sydney Haslam	\$799,000 223 Duncan Way Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	2BD/1.5BA 510-339-4550 Nahid Nassiri	\$1,675,000 7070 Norfolk Rd. Sun. 2-4:30 Claremont	5BD/4BA 510-339-4700 Francis Heath
00 3800 Maybelle #2 Sun 2-4:30 Vikki Landes	2 BD/1.5 BA 510-339-9290 Jackie Care	\$388,000 8041 Greenly Dr Open Sat & Sun 10-1:30 Harbor Bay Realty	3BD/1BA 510-523-1144 Donnaluci Williams	\$575,000 142 Sequoyah View Dr. Open Sunday 2-4:30 Prudential	3 BD/2 BA 510-834-2010 Natalie Lynch	\$799,000 700 Trestle Glen Sun. 2-5 Crockett Highlands	3BD/2.5BA 510-339-4700 Terry Kulka	\$1,849,000 5626 Weaver Pl. Sun. 2-4:30 Hillcrest Estates	4BD 510-339-4000 Kurt Buchholz
00 1528 76th Avenue Sun 2-4:30 Vikki Landes	2 BD/1 BA 510-869-4520 Rebecca Darbg-Williams	\$389,000 4201 Bayo Street Open Sun 2-4:30/Laurel Prudential	2 BD/1BA 510-339-9290 Mark Ross	\$599,000 6176 Valley View Rd. Open Sun. 2-4 RED OAK REALTY	3 BD/2.5BA 510-280-2181 Gerry Pfoor	\$820,000 4066 Oakmore Road Open Sun. 2-4:30 Oakmore	3BD/2BA 510-339-8900 x238 Helen Nicholas	\$1,980,000 6260 Fairlane Drive Sun. 2-5 Montclair	5BD/3BA 510-339-4700 George Karsant
00 1458 34th Street Sun 2-4 Vikki Landes	1BD/1BA 510-530-6330 Howard Kane	\$395,000 3545 Maple Ave. Open Sunday 2-5 / Laurel Prudential	3 BD/1 BA 510-834-2010 Jacqueline Palacios	\$619,000 38 Rio Vista Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	3BD 510-339-0400 Mavis Delacroix	\$829,000 2317 Bywood Drive Sun. 1-5 Upper Oakmore	3BD/2.5BA 510-339-4700 Donna Conroy	\$1,695,000 1 Patrick Lane Open Sun. 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors	5BD/3.5BA 925-258-1111 x212 Bill Finnegan
00 1914 Foothill Blvd. Sun 2-4:30pm Vikki Landes	2BD/1.5BA 415-296-2108 Robin Dustan	\$399,000 1426 MacArthur Blvd Open Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty	2BD/1BA 510-814-4835 Elaine Budka	\$619,000 6656 Charing Cross Rd. Open Sun 2-5 RE/MAX Eastbay Group, Ethel	3 bd/2.5 ba 510-317-7151	\$839,000 6553 Heather Ridge Way Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4BD/2.5BA 510-652-2133 Tricia Swift	\$1,980,000 6260 Fairlane Drive Sun. 2-5 Montclair	5BD/3BA 510-339-4700 George Karsant
00 1528 76th Avenue Sun 2-4:30 Vikki Landes	2 BD/1 BA 510-869-4520 Rebecca Darbg-Williams	\$399,000 6182 Valley View Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential	1+BD/1BA 510-428-0900 Glass/Sabine	\$625,000 25 Stoddard Way Open Sun.2-5/Berkeley Hills Prudential	2+BD/1+BA 510-845-0211 Julie Lehman	\$849,000 10 Chatsworth Court Open Sun. 1:30-4:30 Montclair	4BD/3.5BA 510-339-8900 Kate Castle	\$1,280,000 121 Hagar Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	4BD/3.5BA 510-339-0400 Mindy Scott
00 1476 81st Ave. Sun 2-4:30 Howard Kane	3BD/2BA 510-530-6330 Howard Kane	\$399,000 670 Vernon St. #107 Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	2BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Dana Cohen	\$629,000 4258 Lakeshore Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	4BD/1BA 510-524-9888x19 Arlene Baxter	\$849,000 492 Staten Avenue Open 2-5 Sunday Intero	2bd/2ba 925-708-2228 Joanne JJ Spear	\$1,295,000 455 Mountain Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	4+BD/3+BA 510-652-2133 C. Jones & D. Debari
00 2321 Harrison Ave Sun 2-4:30 Vikki Landes	2BD/1BA 510-428-0900 Hernan Luna	\$410,000 300 Galindo St. Sun. 2-4:30pm Pacific Union Real Estate	3+BD/2BA 510-339-1366 Joanna Hirsch	\$635,000 5697 Cabot Drive Open Sun 2-4:30/Montclair Prudential	3 BD/2 BA 510-339-9290 Vikki Landes	\$895,000 6401 Zinn Dr. Open 1-5 Owner	5BD/3+BA 510-339-3400	\$1,295,000 9 La Salle Avenue Open Sun. 2-4:30 Wells & Bennett Realtors	3+BD/3.5BA 510-531-7000 x242 Chris Christensen
00 3904 Suter St. Sun 2-4:30 Vikki Landes	2BD/1BA 510-339-0400 Bettina Balestrieri	\$419,000 419 Vernon St. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	2BD/1BA 510-339-0400 Sheila Gallagher	\$635,000 5658 Ocean View Open Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills Realty	Duplex 510-524-9888x19 Arlene Baxter	\$924,000 6058 Fairlane Drive Sun. 2-5 Montclair	4BD/3BA 510-339-4700 Judy Ackerman	\$1,389,000 11 Dormidera Avenue Open Sun. 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker	4+BD/3BA 510-339-0400 George Karsant
00 551 Jean St #213 Sun 2-4:30 Vikki Landes	2BD/2BA 510-428-0900 Mark Miller	\$419,000 419 Vernon St. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	2BD/1BA 510-339-0400 Anne Feste	\$635,000 5658 Ocean View Open Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills Realty	Duplex 510-524-9888x19 Arlene Baxter	\$945,000 5831 Ocean View Drive Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4+BD/2BA 510-339-4280 Mary Jane McConville	\$1,795,000 11 Scenic Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-0400 Debra Dryden
00 608 58th Street Sun 2-4 Vikki Landes	2BD/1BA 510-524-9888x14 Warren Lei	\$425,000 1508 Magnolia St. Sun. 1-4 Assist-2-Sell	5BD/2BA 510-530-6330 Howard Kane	\$635,000 5658 Ocean View Open Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills Realty	Duplex 510-524-9888x19 Arlene Baxter	\$945,000 5831 Ocean View Drive Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4+BD/2BA 510-339-4280 Mary Jane McConville	\$1,795,000 11 Scenic Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-0400 Debra Dryden
00 4015 Carrington St. Sun 2-4:30 Howard Kane	2BD/1BA 510-530-6330 Howard Kane	\$429,000 148 Samaria Ln. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	2BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Anne Feste	\$635,000 5658 Ocean View Open Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills Realty	Duplex 510-524-9888x19 Arlene Baxter	\$945,000 5831 Ocean View Drive Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4+BD/2BA 510-339-4280 Mary Jane McConville	\$1,795,000 11 Scenic Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-0400 Debra Dryden
00 2644 Havenscourt Sun 2-4:30 Vikki Landes	2 BD/1 BA 510-339-9290 Hope Broderick	\$435,000 208 Lee Street Open Sun 2-4:30/Adams Point Prudential	2 BD/1+ BA 510-339-9290 Gene Boomer	\$635,000 5658 Ocean View Open Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills Realty	Duplex 510-524-9888x19 Arlene Baxter	\$945,000 5831 Ocean View Drive Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4+BD/2BA 510-339-4280 Mary Jane McConville	\$1,795,000 11 Scenic Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-0400 Debra Dryden
00 3404 Morcon Sun 2-5/Maxwell Park Vikki Landes	3 BD/2 BA 510-845-0211 Heather Sanford	\$439,000 3543 Quigley St. Open Sun 1-4 Agent	3+BD/1+BA 510-593-9889	\$635,000 5658 Ocean View Open Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills Realty	Duplex 510-524-9888x19 Arlene Baxter	\$945,000 5831 Ocean View Drive Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4+BD/2BA 510-339-4280 Mary Jane McConville	\$1,795,000 11 Scenic Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-0400 Debra Dryden
00 6236 Laird Ave. Sun 2-4:30 Vikki Landes	2BD/1BA 510-251-6000 Tony Wright	\$445,000 Duplex 1535 Mitchell St. OPEN Sat-Sun 11-3 FSBO	3-1BD/1BA 925-825-3103 John A. Cox	\$635,000 5658 Ocean View Open Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills Realty	Duplex 510-524-9888x19 Arlene Baxter	\$945,000 5831 Ocean View Drive Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4+BD/2BA 510-339-4280 Mary Jane McConville	\$1,795,000 11 Scenic Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-0400 Debra Dryden
00 2558 55th Avenue Sun 2-4:30 Vikki Landes	3BD/2BA 510-339-8900 Sheila Brox Crawford	\$470,000 3240 Peralta St Loft One Open Sun 2-5 Marvin Gardens	1BD/1BA 510-559-2932 Vanessa Timon Smith	\$635,000 5658 Ocean View Open Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills Realty	Duplex 510-524-9888x19 Arlene Baxter	\$945,000 5831 Ocean View Drive Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4+BD/2BA 510-339-4280 Mary Jane McConville	\$1,795,000 11 Scenic Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-0400 Debra Dryden
00 2187 E 27th St Sun 2-4:30 Vikki Landes	3BD/2BA 510-527-2700 x331 Juliana Wymborg	\$489,000 4001 Canon Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate	3BD/1BA 510-338-1367 Carla Buffington	\$635,000 5658 Ocean View Open Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills Realty	Duplex 510-524-9888x19 Arlene Baxter	\$945,000 5831 Ocean View Drive Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4+BD/2BA 510-339-4280 Mary Jane McConville	\$1,795,000 11 Scenic Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-0400 Debra Dryden
00 7570 Mountain Blvd. #5 Sun 2-4:30pm Richardson R.E. Svcs.	2BD/1.5BA 510-569-3499 Easter McClain	\$489,000 5290 Broadway Terrace Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate	2BD/2BA 510-338-1368 Ashley O'Neill	\$635,000 5658 Ocean View Open Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills Realty	Duplex 510-524-9888x19 Arlene Baxter	\$945,000 5831 Ocean View Drive Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4+BD/2BA 510-339-4280 Mary Jane McConville	\$1,795,000 11 Scenic Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-0400 Debra Dryden
00 801 Franklin Ave. Sun 2-4 Vikki Landes	2 BD/1BA 510-292-2015 Hila Azimzal	\$499,000 1126 Bella Vista Open Sunday 1:30 -5 Prudential	4 BD/2 BA 510-428-0900 Scott Thompson	\$635,000 5658 Ocean View Open Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills Realty	Duplex 510-524-9888x19 Arlene Baxter	\$945,000 5831 Ocean View Drive Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4+BD/2BA 510-339-4280 Mary Jane McConville	\$1,795,000 11 Scenic Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-0400 Debra Dryden
00 3018 Kingsland Sun 2-4:30 Vikki Landes	2 BD/1 BA 510-845-0211 Heidi Marchesotti	\$499,000 4015 Maybelle Avenue Open Sun 2-4:30/Laurel Prudential	2+BD/2 BA 510-339-9290 Mary Dresser	\$635,000 5658 Ocean View Open Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills Realty	Duplex 510-524-9888x19 Arlene Baxter	\$945,000 5831 Ocean View Drive Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4+BD/2BA 510-339-4280 Mary Jane McConville	\$1,795,000 11 Scenic Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-0400 Debra Dryden
00 2558 55th Avenue Sun 2-4:30 Vikki Landes	3BD/2BA 510-339-8900 Sheila Brox Crawford	\$499,000 4744 Stacy St. Sun. 2-4:30pm Richardson R.E. Svcs.	3BD/2BA 510-569-3499 Georgia Richardson	\$635,000 5658 Ocean View Open Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills Realty	Duplex 510-524-9888x19 Arlene Baxter	\$945,000 5831 Ocean View Drive Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4+BD/2BA 510-339-4280 Mary Jane McConville	\$1,795,000 11 Scenic Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-0400 Debra Dryden
00 801 Franklin Ave. Sun 2-4 Vikki Landes	2 BD/1BA 510-292-2015 Hila Azimzal	\$499,000 4744 Stacy St. Sun. 2-4:30pm Richardson R.E. Svcs.	3BD/2BA 510-569-3499 Georgia Richardson	\$635,000 5658 Ocean View Open Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills Realty	Duplex 510-524-9888x19 Arlene Baxter	\$945,000 5831 Ocean View Drive Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4+BD/2BA 510-339-4280 Mary Jane McConville	\$1,795,000 11 Scenic Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-0400 Debra Dryden
00 3018 Kingsland Sun 2-4:30 Vikki Landes	2 BD/1 BA 510-845-0211 Heidi Marchesotti	\$499,000 4744 Stacy St. Sun. 2-4:30pm Richardson R.E. Svcs.	3BD/2BA 510-569-3499 Georgia Richardson	\$635,000 5658 Ocean View Open Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills Realty	Duplex 510-524-9888x19 Arlene Baxter	\$945,000 5831 Ocean View Drive Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4+BD/2BA 510-339-4280 Mary Jane McConville	\$1,795,000 11 Scenic Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-0400 Debra Dryden

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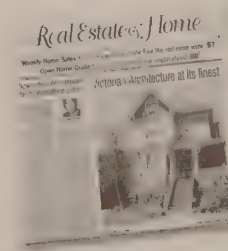
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## Garden

FROM PAGE B13

built-in disease resistance. Often, the plant label will indicate what resistance the plant possesses. If not, check with a knowledgeable source such as a county extension office or a recent garden reference book for the names of disease-resistant plant varieties.

■ Put plants where they will thrive. Know your soil type, soil drainage, and the garden's exposure to sun and wind. Then choose plants that will thrive in these conditions.

■ Water plants early in the day. Water infrequently but deeply, and if possible, only at the base of the plant. Water on foliage for extended periods of time encourages plant diseases.

■ Provide for good air circulation in the garden and landscape. Allow adequate space when planting, remove spent flowers promptly, stake plants, and prune as necessary.

■ Avoid excessive fertilization. Overall, too much fertilizer reduces plant health, often producing lavish growth that is more susceptible to disease.

■ Mulch your soil (let it warm up first in northern gardens). Mulching

will conserve moisture, reducing the time needed for weeding and watering.

■ Keep the garden clean. Remove dead or diseased plant parts or entire plants to minimize disease spread.

■ Clean tools after use. Soil on garden tools can harbor plant pathogens.

■ Apply fungicides, if necessary, but do it correctly and at the right time. Most fungicides are preventative and must be applied in anticipation of disease or to keep non-infected plant parts healthy. They are temporary protection and must be reapplied according to label directions.

Do not wait too long. Fungicides are ineffective on plants that already are declining due to poor site conditions, improper care, or damage caused by pathogens or pests other than fungi.

■ Rotate plants. Annual flowers and vegetables species should be planted in a different spot every year to prevent the build-up of diseases over time.

*The American Phytopathological Society (APS) is a non-profit, professional scientific organization dedicated to the study and control of plant disease with 5,000 members worldwide. Web site: [www.apsworld.org](http://www.apsworld.org)*

## Sales

FROM PAGE B12

2710 East Ct - \$250,000  
1244 Fairway Dr - \$368,000  
702 Falcon Ct - \$465,000  
709 Falcon Ct - \$453,000  
1919 Garvin Av - \$295,000  
2855 Gaynor Av - \$340,000  
1935 Grant Av - \$120,000  
28 Greenview Ln - \$276,000  
33 Grove St - \$320,000  
324 Hawk Ridge Dr - \$512,000  
5315 Heavenly Ridge - \$480,000  
1614 Hoffman Bl - \$450,000  
858 Humboldt St - \$348,000  
3314 Humphrey Av - \$393,000  
1720 Maine Av - \$251,000  
105 Malcolm Dr - \$350,000  
501 Market Av - \$315,000  
2339 McBryde Av - \$225,000  
3210 McBryde Av - \$185,000  
4820 Morwood Dr - \$437,000  
3766 N. Stoneglen - \$211,000  
3796 N. Stoneglen - \$214,000  
6143 Plymouth Av - \$285,000  
1402 Rheem Av - \$275,000  
598 Rock Rose Wy - \$460,000  
4989 Santa Rita Rd - \$475,000  
333 South 7th St - \$215,000  
127 South Marina - \$229,000  
437 Spring St - \$260,000  
3667 West Ct - \$215,000  
511 Willard Av - \$299,000  
977 Yuba St - \$385,000

### SAN LEANDRO

1744 141st Av - \$353,000  
1321 145th Av - \$288,000  
230 Begier Av - \$610,000  
1301 Devonshire - \$475,000  
15163 Fleming St - \$363,000  
1530 Gilmore Dr - \$369,000  
16375 Gordon Wy - \$275,000  
1349 Leonard Dr - \$260,000  
2331 Overlook Ct - \$595,000  
1043 San Leandro - \$131,000  
1095 San Leandro - \$370,000  
2079 Star Pine Wy - \$395,000  
15292 Upton Av - \$420,000

### SAN LORENZO

15921 Bayberry - \$468,000  
16561 Kent Av - \$375,000  
965 Soto Dr - \$489,000  
17356 Via Francos - \$380,000  
1665 Via Helena - \$362,500  
15724 Via Sonata - \$375,000

### By the numbers

**ALAMEDA**  
TOTAL SALES: 9  
LOWEST PRICE: \$296,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$725,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$479,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$486,722

### ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 3  
LOWEST PRICE: \$450,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$520,500  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$517,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$495,833

### BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 9  
LOWEST PRICE: \$400,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$925,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$618,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$601,778

### EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 4  
LOWEST PRICE: \$458,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$492,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$471,500

### EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 5  
LOWEST PRICE: \$165,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$440,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$220,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$274,000

**Quick Over-The-Net  
Pre-Approval  
Visit:  
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Agent: Hs/Mus

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Market Indicator*	Last wk	This wk
	5.000	5.375

## CONTRA COSTA TIMES MORTGAGE GUIDE

[www.mtgeinfo.com/cct](http://www.mtgeinfo.com/cct)

COMPANY	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Rates as of 7/8/03 COMMENTS
<b>dltech.com</b> 800-395-1376 DOC# 8132004 Fees=\$1890	30-yr Fixed 4.875...2.000 5.188...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250...2.000 5.495...30	15-yr Fixed 4.250...1.500 4.746...30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 4.750...2.000 5.148...30	Apply online at <a href="http://www.dltech.com">www.dltech.com</a>
<b>Downey Savings &amp; Loan</b> 800-798-2148 DOC# 6037471 Fees=\$1428	30-yr Fixed 5.375...1.500 5.539...80	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.500 5.851...80	1-mo COFI ARM* 2.500...1.000 4.714...45		Direct lender. 45 yrs experience; fixed & adjust rate mortgages. *Pot neg. arm. Apply online at <a href="http://www.downeysavings.com">www.downeysavings.com</a>
<b>eSource Mortgage, Inc.</b> 888-221-9787 DOC# 6038477 Fees=\$1352	30-yr Fixed 5.250...1.750 5.420...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.770...30	15-yr Fixed 4.250...1.750 4.510...30	1-yr ARM 1.950...0.000 3.340...60	Low rates with NO POINTS ALSO NO CLOSING COSTS AVAILABLE Pics. online @ <a href="http://www.esourcemortgage.com">www.esourcemortgage.com</a>
<b>First Blackhawk Financial</b> 925-648-3039 DRE# 01144055 Fees=\$2006	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.450...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...0.000 5.552...30	10/1 ARM Jumbo 4.875...0.000 4.490...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.750...0.000 3.780...30	Jumbo & super Jumbo Specialist Mary L. 5/1 Jumbo 4.375 0 pt 4.4 apr 30 day 15 yrJumbo 4.87 0 pt 4.98 call 7 days wk
<b>Golden Horizon Mortgage</b> 877-414-8280 DRE# 01316954 Fees=\$1652	30-yr Fixed 5.125...2.000 5.369...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250...2.000 5.468...30	15-yr Fixed 4.375...2.000 4.779...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 3.875...1.000 3.990...30	OPEN WEEKENDS & EVENINGS. CASHOW! STATED INCOME. CALL OR APPLY ON LINE at <a href="http://WWW.CALFIRSTLENDING.COM">WWW.CALFIRSTLENDING.COM</a> OR (877)414-8280
<b>Imperial Mortgage</b> 800-961-2274 DRE# 01033932 Fees=\$1453	30-yr Fixed 5.250...1.000 5.424...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.000 5.627...30	15-yr Fixed 4.500...1.000 4.792...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000...1.000 3.117...30	Don't get lured-in by low, low Quotes! Call for an honest, lockable rate! In-home apps. or Imperial-mortgage.net
<b>Intercontinental Mortgage</b> 800-848-6002 DRE# 01347162 Fees=\$1453	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.250 5.487...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.250 5.684...30	15-yr Fixed 4.750...0.500 4.975...30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.000...0.000 5.061...30	Call for great rates on other loan products. (800) 848-6002. Apply online <a href="http://http://www.intercontinentalmortgage.com">http://www.intercontinentalmortgage.com</a>
<b>Lenders Nstar Mtg Grp</b> 925-244-3960 DRE# 1345744 Fees=\$2224	30-yr Fixed 5.250...1.500 5.472...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.250 5.851...30	15-yr Fixed 4.500...1.375 4.853...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 1.950...1.000 4.519...45	WWW.NSMLoans.com Call for Today's Rate Call for ZERO pt Lafayette. Purchase or Refinance. Located in Lafayette, CA
<b>Matrix Investment Corp.</b> 800-366-8916 DOC# 4130418 Fees=\$1396	30-yr Fixed 4.875...1.625 5.080...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.125...1.750 5.258...30	15-yr Fixed 4.125...1.880 4.589...30	30-yr Fixed 0 Pts 5.250...0.000 5.363...30	Good & bad credit considered. Brokers welcome! Visit us at <a href="http://www.matrixinvestmentcorp.com">www.matrixinvestmentcorp.com</a>
<b>Mortgage Broker Assoc.</b> 877-987-7700 DRE# 01116614 Fees=\$2277	30-yr Fixed 5.250...1.000 5.442...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...0.000 5.544...45	3/1 ARM 3.125...0.625 4.066...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.500...0.125 3.549...30	NO Income/NO Assets/NO Job? - YES NO Money/NO Closing costs? - YES All types of Credit? - YES
<b>Mortgage Market</b> 800-837-5626 DRE# 00687562 Fees=\$1675	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.000 5.716...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000...0.000 6.093...30	15-yr Fixed 5.000...0.000 5.151...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.000...0.000 5.088...30	Credit problems, bankruptcy, difficult loans our specialty. All govt loans. 100% loans, credit lines, construction
<b>Northern Mutual Corp.</b> 888-441-2600 DRE# 01243581 Fees=\$2648	30-yr Fixed call ...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call ...	15-yr Fixed call ...		Wow!! Look at our Jumbo int. rates! We guarantee no bar & switch at closing. E-mail Steve@northernmutual.com
<b>Omni Funding Services</b> 800-303-8887 DRE# 01183856 Fees=\$2051	30-yr Fixed 5.250...1.500 5.472...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...1.500 5.800...30	15-yr Fixed 4.625...1.500 4.988...30	5/1 ARM 4.000...1.500 4.208...30	<a href="http://www.24hourloancenter.com">www.24hourloancenter.com</a> Check out our web site for more rates! We are committed to EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE!
<b>Pacific West Financial</b> 800-878-7334 DRE# 0124581 Fees=\$1894	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.604...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.921...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.375...0.000 4.417...30	3/1 ARM 3.375...0.000 3.467...30	Se Habla Espanol! 100% purchase loans Credit Problems OK
<b>Premier Mortgage Group</b> 888-389-6936 DOC# 4130386 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed 5.250...0.000 5.294...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.647...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250...0.000 4.110...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.625...0.000 3.935...30	Get rates online at <a href="http://www.pmgmortgage.com">www.pmgmortgage.com</a> Now open Saturdays 9-3, evenings until 8:00 pm. Purchases may be 1/8% lower.
<b>ProMortgage</b> 877-552-2700 DRE# 01230152 Fees=\$1851	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.632...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.732...45	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250...0.000 4.630...45	10/1 ARM Jumbo 5.000...0.000 5.121...45	GREAT INTEREST ONLY JUMBOS! 10 YR 5.375%, 7 YR 5%, 5 YR 4.25% 6 MO LIBOR ARM 3.00%
<b>Saratoga Bancorp</b> 800-935-6266 DRE# 01220326 Fees=\$1893	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.430...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.800...45	15-yr Fixed 4.750...0.000 4.830...45	5/1 ARM 4.250...0.000 3.860...45	NO Income Check Has It Rewards! No Income Check Loans No Upfront Fees Pmt/Refi to 100%. SaratogaBancorp.com
<b>SF Pacific Mtge. Consult.</b> 415-567-5525 DRE# 01243287 Fees=\$1695	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.542...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.646...30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.000...0.000 5.037...30	5/6 Int Only Jumbo 4.375...0.000 4.395...30	Expert Real Estate Advice! Local SF Bay Area Broker. Call today or visit <a href="http://www.sfpacificmortgage.com">www.sfpacificmortgage.com</a>
<b>Western Capital Mortgage</b> 888-560-2923 DRE# 01080489 Fees=\$1630	30-yr Fixed 5.250...0.000 5.330...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...0.000 5.440...30	15-yr Fixed 4.575...0.000 4.740...30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.840...30	Call for No Closing Cost Loan Rates Visit us at <a href="http://www.westernmortgage.com">www.westernmortgage.com</a> *Posted Rates Are For Purchases
<b>A American Resid. Lend.</b> 800-566-8470 DRE# 0130340 Fees=\$1624	30-yr Fixed 5.250...0.000 5.346...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.667...45	20-yr Fixed 4.875...0.500 4.890...45	15-yr Fixed 4.625...0.000 4.787...45	Refi, purchase or consolidate now! Free Approval! No Doc Loans M-F 7:00-9:00 Sat-Sun 7:00-5:00
<b>A Better Mortgage</b> 800-711-0027 DRE# 01162773 Fees=\$1969	30-yr Fixed 5.250...0.000 5.440...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...0.000 5.580...30	15-yr Fixed 4.625...0.000 4.980...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125...0.000 4.200...30	Credit problems OK. Open weekends 2nd mortgages/Equity lines available <a href="http://www.westcoastfinancial.net">www.westcoastfinancial.net</a>
<b>A Superior Mortgage</b> 800-941-4446 DRE# 01351704 Fees=\$1889	30-yr Fixed 5.250...0.000 5.430...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...0.000 5.690...30	15-yr Fixed 4.625...0.000 4.810...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500...0.000 4.680...30	Open weekends. Credit problems OK *Apply online! Se Habla Espanol <a href="http://www.superior-mtg.net">www.superior-mtg.net</a>
<b>A-Olympic Funding-Best Rate</b> 800-640-5588 DRE# 01197415 Fees=\$1820	30-yr Fixed 4.875...2.000 5.122...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.125...2.000 5.335...30	15-yr Fixed 4.125...2.000 4.322...30	10-yr Int Only 3.250...0.000 3.330...30	Open 7 days 9A-9P <a href="http://www.ofrelans.com">www.ofrelans.com</a> E.Bay Offices 800-765-7909 Heliamos Espanol ONLY call 877-227-2642
<b>AAA Mortgage</b> 888-821-6200 DRE# 01096146 Fees=\$1599	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.465...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...0.000 5.538...45	10/1 ARM Jumbo 4.875...0.000 4.912...45	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 4.875...0.000 4.940...45	Zero Cost Loans Available 10/1 Jumbo ARM NO prepay Open 24/7 @ <a href="http://www.aaalender.com">www.aaalender.com</a>
<b>AccessBanc Mortgage</b> 800-861-2765 DRE# 00892884 Fees=\$1430	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.562...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.656...30	Jumbo Special* ...	Jumbo Special* ...	3 yr/1yr: ARM 4.000%, 3.492 APR; 0/0 Fee 5 yr/1yr: ARM 4.625%, 3.633 APR; 0/0 Fee Prepay & other restrictions may apply
<b>Bank of America</b> 877-88-FIXED Fees=\$1806	30-yr Fixed 5.125...1.000 5.174...60	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.000 5.618...30	3/1 ARM 3.500...1.000 3.628...30	5/1 ARM 3.875...1.000 4.000...30	0 Down, First Time Buyers, Purchase, Refinance - Fast Purchase Closings *AHC Program - Restrictions Apply
<b>Cal-State Funding</b> 800-883-5363 DRE# 00874441 Fees=\$2010	30-yr Fixed 5.250...1.000 5.340...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.000 5.590...45	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250...1.000 4.340...45	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.500...1.000 3.590...45	Cal-State Funding CAN fund your loan Rates change daily, call for latest rate We are here to satisfy your needs
<b>California Mortgage Mart</b> 800-947-4769 DRE# 00406187 Fees=\$1759	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.450...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...0.000 5.530...45	15-yr Fixed 4.750...0.000 4.870...45	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 4.875...0.000 4.920...45	<a href="http://www.CaliforniaMortgageMart.com">www.CaliforniaMortgageMart.com</a> for updated rates, 45 day upfront rate lock, loan application. Minimum loan \$200,000
<b>California Mtge. Advisors</b> 888-CAL-REFI x600 DRE# 01170668 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed 5.250...0.000 5.339...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375...0.000 5.413...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.625...0.000 3.660...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125...0.000 4.161...30	DIRECT LENDER LOANS TO 10 MILLION <a href="http://WWW.CALMTG.COM">WWW.CALMTG.COM</a>
<b>CMG Mortgage</b> 800-958-5339 DRE# 01170028 Fees=\$1433	30-yr Fixed 5.250...1.000 5.403...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.125 5.630...45	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250...1.500 4.342...45	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250...1.125 4.370...45	Open Sat & Sun. Quik Qualifier & stated income option available. Financing for people with less than perfect credit

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Rates based on \$150,000 loan for single family residence. Jumbo rates (loans in excess of \$322,700) based on \$350,000 loan. All rates are believed to be accurate but cannot be guaranteed and are subject to change without notice. Minimum downpayment requirements and other restrictions may apply. Closing costs may vary. Contact each company for details. Points include origination and discount fees. APR = annual percentage rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance. Lock-rate period. ARM=adjustable rate mortgage. Companies pay a fee to be in this Guide. \*Auge 30-yr. fixed conforming with 0 points. Fees are estimated costs based on \$150,000 purchase money loan and may vary from loan to loan. These are not inclusive of all costs and do not include points, prepaid interest, title insurance or escrow items. \*Fees in "Current Mortgage Rates" section of website + contact each company for details. Copyright 2003, INFOTRAK National Data Services and Knight Publishing Co.

If you would like to be included in this Mortgage Guide, please call 781-276-1711

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**ROCKRIDGE VIEW 5511 Edmond Ave. \$365,000**  
Three bedroom, two bath home with beautiful hardwood floors in excellent condition. Lovely living room/dining room combination, kitchen opens to light-filled family room, large one-car attached garage with laundry. Landscaped backyard. Very close to Wildcat Canyon and Alvarado Park.  
Open Sunday 2-4:30

**RICHMOND VIEW 6452 Kensington Ave. \$349,000**  
New listing! Adorable two plus bedroom, one bath home with nice, almost level yard. Refinished hardwood floors, upgraded kitchen with dining area, living room, updated bath. One-car detached garage. Some Bay View. Immaculate.  
Open Sunday 2-4:30

**KENSINGTON 255 Grizzly Peak. \$629,000**  
Privacy and tranquility at the top of the peak! This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home has a serene setting complete with a pocket view of the canyon. Dual fireplace provide an opportunity to enjoy a fire in either the living room or the family room. The side courtyard allows for entertaining and is a gardener's heaven!  
Open Sunday 2-4

**OAKLAND 2187 E. 27th Street. \$359,000**  
Fabulous 3 bedroom, 2 bath original Craftsman in up & coming area with long-term neighbors. Added master bedroom suite with spacious bath with jacuzzi tub. Great condition, just move in!  
Open Sunday 2-4

**EL SOBRANTE 408 North Street. \$549,000**  
Garden paradise in Rockridge! 2 bedroom, 1 remodeled bath, large country kitchen w/break desk, Org. built-ins and window seats in open living room & dining area. Attached garage used as art studio. Walk to your favorite Rockridge shops & cafes.  
Open Sunday 2-4:30

**OAKLAND 3240 Pershing St. \$400,000**  
Nearly 1700 square feet of living/playing space in Clavon Lofel New bungalow. Brushed stainless appliances, original pine, big bathroom with your own wet Special. Live showings 7/15/03  
Open Sunday 2-5

Juliana Wynberg 527-2700 x31

Darrell Hoh 527-2901

Alicia and Anita Wilson 292-3042

Merrilyn Rhodes 292-3048

Crystal Elliott 292-3041

Lloyd Jung 559-2912

**1577 Solano Ave. Berkeley (510) 527-2700**

**7502 Fairmount Ave. El Cerrito (510) 527-9111**

**289 Arlington Ave. Kensington (510) 524-0800**

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Offered at \$729,000  
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At last, the spacious Albany home you've been waiting for! Quiet street, great location. Architect-designed addition includes dramatic master suite with view. Remodeled kitchen flows to a large family room with access to a pleasant level back yard.

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Copy & Artwork: **TUESDAY, 12 Noon**  
Open Home Guide: **WEDNESDAY, 12 Noon**

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**510-523-1144**  
885 Island Drive, Alameda

**hbrhomes.com**

**Oakland**

**\$155,000 3233 Monterey Blvd.** Large wooded lot with spectacular views next to very nice homes. Jeff Goodman 510-814-4885

**\$259,000 1458 34TH ST., Emeryville Border.** OPEN SUN 2-4. Dramatic spacious modern unit, designer kitchen, private patio & soaking tub. Garage and off St. parking. Elaine 510-814-4835

**\$299,900 2380 108<sup>th</sup> Ave.** Single level 2-bd, 1.5ba bungalow with new appliances, new paint, new carpets, new central heating and new back lawn. 2 car detached garage. Maryann 510-814-4873

**\$369,000 3318 Maple Ave.** Laurel District. 1-Level, 2bd/1ba home with hardwood floors in living room and both bedrooms. 2-Car garage. Martha 510-814-4828

**\$388,000 8041 Greenly Dr.** OPEN SAT & SUN 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Secluded Keller area. French Country single level home with 3BD, 1BA, hardwood floors, and fresh paint inside and out. Move-in condition! Donaluci 510-814-4826

**\$375,000 1426 MacArthur Blvd.** OPEN SUN 2-4. Glenview District. Completely remodeled inside & out 2-BD, 1BA, partial view of SF and Oakland. EZ access to freeway. Elaine 510-814-4835

**\$425,000 744 26th St.** Sixties style 3 unit building. Termite report available. Kathy 510-814-4706

**\$499,000 3231 Monterey Blvd.** Fabulous Bay views from 3BD, 2BA home! Large family room, 2 fireplaces. Needs cosmetic work. "As is" sale. Steve Sorensen 510-814-4888

**PENDING**

**\$649,000 1002 Bella Vista Ave.** 4-plex! Historic craftsman house with 2 units added. Call Margaret 510-814-4829

**\$718,000 724 Arimo Ave.** OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4. Spacious Crocker Highlands 4 bd, 2 ba craftsman with family room, formal dining room, finished basement, bonus room, tons of storage, and hardwood floors. Donaluci 510-814-4826 Virtual Tour on: hbrhomes.com

**\$650,000 1775 & 1779 Chase St.** 1788 8th. 5 lots to be sold together. Call for details! Kathy 510-814-4706

**San Ramon**

**\$605,000 663 Greylyn Dr.** OPEN SUN 2-4. Great 3BD, 2.5BA family home with upgrades! Custom built-ins, entertainment center, and custom office. Darlene 510-814-4777

**San Leandro**

**\$310,000 13743 Seagate Dr.** Beautiful single level 2bd, 2ba home with views of the bay, many upgrades, new dishwasher, Berber carpet, tile floors etc. Tere 510-814-4840

**\$429,000 541 Callan Ave.** OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4. Two homes on one lot! Front home is 2BD, 1BA, formal dining, fireplace. Cottage is 1BD, 1BA, patio. Tere 510-814-4840

**San Francisco**

**\$539,000 2324 22nd St.** Potrero Hill. OPEN SUN 2-4. 1 level Mediterranean w/2BD, 1 BA, remodeled kitchen, hardwood floors, wood built-ins, updated bath and 2 car garage w/storage. Chuck 510-814-4647

**The GRUBB Co.**

**148 Samaria Lane, Redwood**  
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Spectacular updated home. South Bay views. Soaring ceilings & hip Hardwood, Berber, granite & awesome Wonderful deck off living room. Spacious storage area. Offered at \$

**ANNE FESTE**  
OFFICE: 652.2133./371  
afeste@grubbco.com  
GRUBBCO.COM

**Open Sunday 1-4**

**2709 Monterey Blvd., Oakland**  
Introducing a charming traditional home near Montclair Village, Hwy. 13, and the Joaquin Miller Parkland trails. This vintage mid-century home of wood, stone, and brick offers classic style and a great floor plan, including over 1900 sq. ft., 3bd, 2ba, family room, fireplace, indoor laundry and 2 car garage.

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**\$435,000**  
**'Le Chateau' Condo**  
2 Bdrms, 1 1/2 Baths,  
Hwd, LR w/Fp/c,  
Renovated Kit + Bath,  
3 Levels.

**6044 Pinehaven**  
**\$560,000**  
**Price Reduced**  
3+ Bdrms, 3 baths  
unit, new carpet +  
Sunroom, sports

**Both Open Sunday, July 13th, 2-4:30**

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**Cell 510-384-8834**  
Email: [Gene@GeneBoomer.com](mailto:Gene@GeneBoomer.com)

**Prudential**  
California Realty

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**FEATURED HOMES**

**Alameda**

**Sun 2-4:30 \$1,169,000**  
7 White Court, Oakland. New 3700 sq. ft. 5 BR, 3 1/2 BA, pecan floors, gourmet kit. Heidi Marchessotti 510-339-9290

**Sun 2-5 \$520,000**  
Impeccable precision of the Twenties craftsmanship applicable. 2BR + den, FDR, MS "Sam" McDowell 510-869-5418

**Sun 1-5 \$449,000**  
1029 Lincoln Avenue. Charming 2 BR, 1 BA bungalow. Hardwood floors, garage, big lot. John W. Abbott II 510-219-6334

**Sun 2-5 \$236,000**  
955 Shorepoint #115. 1 BR, 1 BA condo, pool view, W/D in unit, light & bright. Jennie Wong 510-337-8670

**Oakland/Piedmont**

**Sun 2-4:30 \$975,000**  
30 Hiller Drive. Lovely 2 BR, 2 BA with gourmet kitchen. Bay views and pool. Carol Arnold 510-339-9290

**Sat & Sun 2-4:30 \$965,000**  
5565 Moraga Avenue. New const. 4 BR, 4 BA, frpl., fam. rm., + upgrades. Barbara Hopper 510-845-0211

**Sun 2-5 \$689,000**  
658 Hillgirt. 5 BR, 4 BA on Haddon Hill, spacious, bright. Wendy Louie 510-868-1400

**Sun 2-5 \$499,000**  
1126 Bella Vista, craftsman, 4 BR, 2 BA, in-law unit, big lot. Scott Thompson 510-410-2003

**Sun 2-4:30 \$470,000**  
593 62nd Street. Huge craftsman fixer. 4+ BR, 2 1/2 BA, over 2,000 sq. ft. Henriette Lanier-Green 510-834-2010

**Sun 2-4:30 \$435,000**  
208 Lee Street. Enchanting 2 BR, 1+ BA, 1940's garden condo. 1st Open! Gene Boomer 510-339-9290

**Fabulous Fixer.** \$800,000  
4 BR Mediterranean on huge lot in San Leandro needs major work. Vickie Robinson 510-428-0900

**Sun 2-4:30 \$399,000**  
6182 Valley View. Retreat setting in Montclair, huge lot and nature. Glass/Sabine 510-428-0900

**Sun 2-4:30 \$369,000**  
646 58th Street. Restored, renovated, 2 BR, 1 BA, 1924 bungalow. D.A. Hammond 510-339-9290

**Sun 2-4:30 \$369,000**  
4260 Suter Street. Cute 2 BR, 1 1/2 BA plus office and legal guest cottage. Vince Moran 510-339-9290

**Sun 2-4 \$335,000**  
4831 Webster. Great location, convenient to BART, Bus, Rockridge. Tim Keenan 510-868-1503

**Sun 2-5 \$325,000**  
3404 Morcom. Large 2 story home with sweet yard. Needs TLC & more! Heather Sandford 510-845-0211

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2644 Havenscourt Blvd. Charming 2 BR, 1 BA, Mediterranean starter. 1st Open. Hope Broderick 510-339-9290

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# SPORTS

• Friday, July 11, 2003 •

Section C

## Howard masterful against Clayton Valley

le SOLL pitcher  
s out 10 to propel his  
to an 8-1 victory

By Scott Strain  
STAFF WRITER

EDMONT — Pitcher Rob Howard looks a little like Opie, the mound demeanor of a fiery and brings heat to a three-rail billiard shot. Howard, who will enter his junior at Bishop O'Dowd in fall, fired a two-hitter and out 10 as South Oakland League defeated Clayton Valley 8-1 in the first round of District 4 International Tournament senior division playoffs afternoon at Witter.

LL will play rival North today at 6 p.m. in a d-round game, which is Witter. NOLL won its first

game 7-0 over Pinole-Hercules via forfeit.

"I just felt very comfortable out there," Howard said. "I didn't start off that well and that's usually the case for me. If I can survive the first couple of innings, I'm usually fine."

Howard gave up two hits in the first two innings and then really shut Clayton Valley down from the third through sixth innings. In a five-inning span Howard struck out nine and retired 15 straight before walking Scott Layton with two out in the seventh.

Howard wasn't fooling around; many of these strikeouts were of the four- or five-pitch variety. Clayton Valley batters weren't swinging; they were flailing.

"He did pitch well," South Oakland coach Sam Romano said, "but he did throw a couple of one-hitters in league. I've seen it before, and when he gets in a groove he can be very tough."

SOLL gave Howard a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning without getting a hit. Jordan Harris walked, stole second, went to third on a passed ball and scored when Tony DiFrancesco was safe on an error.

"That run was very important," Romano said. "It took the pressure off of us and put it on them."

In the bottom half of the inning, Howard walked Stephen Ross and Anthony Alessi singled to left. But he was caught in a rundown and retired for the second out. Clayton Valley didn't score.

SOLL batted around in the second and scored four runs. Nick Safir was safe on an error and Milt Williams sent him to second with a line single to center. Safir moved up on a wild pitch and Williams stole second. Howard hit a long sacrifice fly to center that scored Safir and Harris walked.

Kevin Ruma doubled to left to

score Williams, and that hit put runners on second and third. Nikko Wahl then came up with the big hit of the inning, a two-run single to left that scored Harris and Ruma for 4-0.

Clayton Valley managed its only run in the bottom of the second when Layton was hit by a pitch, went to second on a wild pitch and to third on a ground out. Greg Meiers grounded a hit to short, but Layton stayed a third. Howard picked Meiers off second, but during the ensuing rundown (Meiers was out), Layton scored.

While Howard was mowing down the Clayton Valley, South Oakland, managed to stretch its lead to 8-1 by scoring one run in the fifth and two in the sixth. DiFrancesco popped a single to right in the fifth, stole second, went to third on a wild pitch and scored when Jake Walter singled to center.



SOLL PITCHER Rob Howard, who will be a junior at Bishop O'Dowd, struck out 10 in his team's 8-1 win over Clayton Valley.

## Oaks bounce back

STAFF REPORT

the Oakland Oaks under-16 baseball team, Mr. C's Tournament at Laurel Creek Park in Alameda has been a story of comebacks. After losing their opening to Benicia on Friday, the team stormed back to win four in five.

After going 3-1 and taking a 2-0 lead in pool play, the Oaks were upset by a different team in a 6-4 quarterfinal win over Reno on Tuesday. (16-11-2 overall) to continue its run of success in the semifinals Wednesday.

Wednesday's game started ominously for the Oaks as Reno took two runs in the top of the first. The Oaks tied the score in the second. Kevin Ricketts of the High School-Fremont Oaks on the scoreboard in RBI triple and later came on a passed ball.

The Oaks went up for keeps in the fifth inning behind the O'Dowd combination of Riche and Bryce Menzies. With two out, Riche drilled the clutch hit that scored on a 3-2 Oaks lead. Riche, however, ultimately scored more runs, and scored in the bottom of the sixth. Jones (Head-Royce) high-died the three-run inning with a single as the Oaks took a 4-1 lead. Jones also doubled in the seventh, scoring two runs in the seventh, but Oakland came too far to let the game away.

Howard's Rashad Tucker was starting pitcher, and Sale-Johnny Van Looy was most active in relief. Van Looy over for Tucker in the seventh and finished the Van Looy pitched six strikeouts with six strikeouts.

See OAKS, Page 2

## East County rolls to easy win

■ Albany can't stop the momentum after a batter reaches base on a third strike

By Mike McGreehan  
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Think back in baseball history. To the 1941 World Series, specifically, when Brooklyn Dodgers catcher Mickey Owen failed to catch a third strike to the Yankees' Tommy Henrich in the top of the ninth inning of Game 4. The play not only began a winning rally, but turned the overall momentum in favor of the Yankees, who went on to win the Series the following day.

The opening game of the District 4 International Tournament senior division playoffs between the All-Star teams of the Albany Little League and East County Little League at Memorial Park on Tuesday evening did not offer anything nearly as dramatic. But that famous play from 62 years ago came to mind when East County claimed a 14-4 win after Albany failed to catch a third strike in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Surely, the game's wacky ending stands out. Overall, though, the difference between the two teams boiled down to patience at the plate. For the most part, East County (representing Oakley and Brentwood) had it and Albany did not. Thanks to its patience — as well as its hitters' ability to time pitches — East County transformed 11 hits and nine walks into a tidy win.

East County advanced to play a winners' bracket game at Memorial Park today at 6. Albany — which played as the Rainiers during the regular season and Tournament of Champions (the Albany Little League had only one senior division team) — drops into the losers' bracket and will play Saturday morning at Memorial Park at 10.

"We only had one starting pitcher and he didn't have it today," Albany manager Carlos



ALBANY ALL-STARS catcher Marcelo Munoz, right, looks to make a play after East County's Chris Cooper scores. East County beat Albany 14-4 in the District 4 International Tournament playoffs.

Munoz said. "But (our players) never gave up. (East County) had the cream of the crop from three teams, but we have just the one team. So in a way, it was a moral victory because we scored four runs on them."

Albany didn't do any scoring the first four innings against East County starter Brandon Gregorich, who struck out six, walked one, hit a batter and yielded just one hit. Gregorich threw pitches out of the strike zone numerous times, but Albany batters often found those same pitches — especially the high ones — just too tantalizing.

East County, instead, typically waited on the curveballs thrown by Albany starter Nick Perovich. As a reliever in last week's TOC semifinal with the Clayton Valley A's, Perovich pitched superbly. This time, though, he was

not at the top of his game as he walked the first three he faced in the bottom of the first inning.

A fielder's choice by Anthony Vega brought the first run home and Vince Teres' double scored two more as East County took a 3-0 lead.

East County added three more runs in the second inning behind Vega's two-run double and Teres' sacrifice fly. Five unearned runs in the third inning put the game safely in the win column for East County. Gregorich helped his own cause with a sacrifice fly, which should have been the third out of the inning. Teres struck the big blow — a three-run double — three batters later.

After adding a run in the fourth for a 12-0 lead, East County looked to close the game by shutting down Albany in the top of the fifth.

But Albany hitters fared much better against reliever Greg Palmieri than they did against Gregorich. Fran Langbein and Aaron McCreary drew back-to-back walks to start the inning. Donnie Phelps followed with a base hit to bring Langbein home with Albany's first run. McCreary later swiped home as part of a double steal with Perovich, who had re-entered the game as a pinch runner for Phelps.

Back-to-back walks to Alec Jossens and Tommy Harkness loaded the bases, but Miguel Paniagua grounded into a force play at the plate, cutting down Perovich.

Marcelo Muñoz followed with a walk that forced in Albany's third run of the inning, thus ensuring that the game would have

See BASEBALL, Page 2

## Albany falls late vs. SOLL

STAFF REPORT

Down by a run in the top of the sixth inning, the South Oakland Little League All-Stars rallied for two runs to take the lead, and then shut down the Albany Little League squad in the bottom of the inning to claim a 4-3 victory in District 4 International Tournament major division losers' bracket baseball at Walnut Creek Intermediate School on Tuesday evening.

The game was a scoreless pitchers' duel between SOLL's Mike Moyer and Albany's Matthew Peterson for the first three innings. Moyer struck out the side in the first, tossed a 1-2-3 second, and also retired the Albany side in order in the third, two on strikeouts.

Offensively, SOLL had some opportunities, but failed to break through against Peterson. Josh Varinsky (2-for-3) knocked a two-strike, two-out single in the first. In the second, left-fielder Evan Haarz lined a single to right, and speedy pinch runner Scott Masler advanced to second on a wild pitch and then to third on a passed ball, but was stranded there. In the third, Zander Yepsen led off with a single to left and pinch runner Masler advanced into scoring position on Moyer's sacrifice bunt, but Masler was left stranded.

SOLL finally got on the board in the fourth. Alex Robles lined a double to the gap in right-center, then advanced to third and scored on two wild pitches. Later in the inning, Matt Balich drew a walk, Ned Lutz reached on an error, and Devin Brown — better known for his superb defense at catcher — knocked in SOLL's second run with a single.

Albany, however, responded in the bottom of the fourth as Nana Yiadom and Rashad Alarjan reached on back-to-back errors to start the inning. Peterson then helped his own cause with

See ALBANY, Page 2

## Sting's glory days once again for the Sting 10B's

By Geoff Chin

ALTO THE HILLS NEWSPAPERS

Like the rest of the Bay Area, the rest of the A's-Giants game had up at home with the Larry Potter book, the Al-Berkeley Girls Softball Sting 10-under B team led to the windblown flats at Concord on June 21-22 Junior Optimist Baseball's Glory Days Tournament. Sting thoroughly overpowered the six-team field, outscored competition 73-2 in five, allowing only seven total and facing only 10 batters in the minimum.

Though not tested by the teams, the tournament had

its highlights. Of greatest note was the first meeting between the two ABGSL 10C-under All-Star teams, 10B and 10C, in the Sunday semifinal. A pregame yell match between the squads was led by the big sisters of the Sting 12s team, each team trying to outstream the other. With several key starters resting in the dugout, Corey Chin at second and Zoe Olivar-Grey catching, every Sting 10B player scored at least one run in the game, and Caitlin Taffe smote her season's first hit in ample support of Hannah Port who cruised to a four-inning no-hitter.

The 10C's played with composure in the field and batted

gamely at the plate, but succumbed 16-0. First baseman Sara Muse went 3-for-3 and scored three runs, as did shortstop Kelsey Murakami. Krista Smithers also came up in three, going a perfect 3-for-3 with a triple while playing third base. Outfielder Marisa Budlong chose twos, going 2-for-2 with two runs and two RBI.

The afternoon final was an anticlimactic 15-0 win over the Napa Valley Express in a rematch of a first-round game. Rebecca Studin continued her dominance on the mound, striking out 11 over five innings while giving up only one hit. The lone hit was a third-inning triple fielded

by Olivar-Grey in center, relayed to Murakami at short, who threw a perfect strike to catcher Maddie Cousens, who blocked the score and wiped out the only scoring threat of the game as the Napa runner unwisely tried to stretch her hit into a home run.

In other games, Murakami and Port combined to no-hit the Express in the opening game Saturday afternoon. Proving you can only hit the ball if it is thrown somewhere near the plate, Sting players collected 15 hits on zero walks, winning 10-0. Chin collected her first hits of the season on two solid singles.

See SOFTBALL, Page 2



MEMBERS of the Albany-Berkeley Sting-B girls 10-and-under softball team show off their first-place trophies.

### Screen summer camp

East Bay Media Center brings lengthy access to its Summer Media Camp.

### Unextraordinary 'League'

■ New film "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen" has a promising premise but doesn't follow through. Page C3

### Multimedia Notes

■ Shril talk show host Michael Savage bobs back to the surface after being bounced from KGO and MSNBC. Page C3

### Let's all go to the lobby

■ Showtimes and a roundup of reviews are your guide to an outing at the cinema. Page C4



# Baker should have kept quiet to report

**S**AN FRANCISCO — What makes the following statements so astonishing isn't that they came from the mouth of a major-league manager, but that they came from the mouth of former Giants and current Chicago Cubs manager Dusty Baker.



NEIL HAYES  
Staff columnist

The man who has spent much of his life pointing out the injustices of racial double standards may have unwittingly created one.

"You have to pretend you're a construction worker out here," Baker told reporters on Saturday, which was a typically hot and humid day in Chicago. "You have no choice. It's easier for me. It's easier for most Latin guys and it's easier for most minority people. Most of us came from the heat."

"We were brought over here for the heat, right?" Baker asked. "Isn't that history? We were brought over here because we can take the heat."

Baker had been asked about

whether he thought the Cubs played too many games in the heat of the day, which might drain players for the pennant drive, which has been a topic of considerable discussion on the North Side in recent years. Baker chuckled before launching into his own revisionist history lesson, according to an Associated Press report, but still

"(Blacks') skin color is more conducive to heat than it is for lighter skin people, right?" he continued. "You don't see brothers running around burnt. Yeah, that's a fact. I'm not making this stuff up. Right? You don't see some brothers

walking around with white stuff on their ears and noses."

He can claim he was just joking around, in which case he of all people should've known that you don't joke about matters such as this, especially when your words are being recorded for public consumption, especially when the findings of the scientific community prove they have no basis in fact.

Baker himself has felt the oppressive yoke of racism. His family moved to Carmichael only after neighbors voted to allow them into the all-white community. He was one of two blacks at Del Campo High School. His brother was the other.

He has always acknowledged double standards in sports. White players are more likely to not be charged for drunken driving than black athletes, for example. Nobody would rent him an apartment while he played in the minor

leagues in South Carolina, forcing him to live among pimps and prostitutes.

He notices when a woman squeezes her purse strings when he steps on an elevator or looks panicked when he approaches to ask for directions but they do not react this way when approached by white men.

Those are blatant double standards. That he is the current manager of the Cubs and not their former manager may be yet another.

If Los Angeles Dodgers manager Jim Tracy or A's manager Ken Macha had uttered those same words, they could expect protests outside Dodger Stadium and Network Associates Coliseum. The Rev. Al Sharpton would condemn the comments as another example of racism in sports. They might even be fired.

In this case the statements were made by an African-American and therefore we

only began to hear of them days after the fact.

"I have pretty strong opinions about it but not for the press," Giants first baseman J.T. Snow said when asked to comment on Baker's remarks.

Several other coaches and players refused to comment or when they did later asked that their words not be used. They were either dumbfounded or wanted to respond but didn't want to say something they might later regret.

Marquis Grissom, for one, read Baker's quote and agreed. "Baseball people tell the truth about the way things are," he said. "What's wrong with that? I guess people don't want to hear the truth."

Baker has long been a voice of reason on matters of race. His managerial success has been in part the result of his ability to relate to players of all races.

Perhaps he deserves the benefit of the doubt the one time he opened his mouth before en-

gaging his good sense maybe he's just as much a victim of racism as the black players, who said black have the necessities of the necessities, or Jim Greek? Snyder, who said blacks were better because they had been that way as slaves.

Both men lost the way.

"I have a tremendous amount of respect and affection for Dusty," St. Louis manager Tony La Russa said. "I believe if given the opportunity to explain, he would all be satisfied."

In many ways Baker remains an insular coach where ignorance breeds old stereotypes die often painful death. Baker's success is a product of political correctness we're supposed to know Dusty Baker, of all people should know better

## Oaks

FROM PAGE 1

and three walks. He gave up just the two runs in the seventh inning.

### Pool play

A comeback effort fell short last Friday when the Oaks fell 10-8 to Benicia in the tournament opener.

Oakland found itself down 10-0 after Benicia batted in the top of the fifth. Then the comeback started in a big way as the Oaks scored four runs in the bottom of the inning, before adding one more in the sixth and three more in the seventh.

Alex Jensen of St. Mary's was strong in relief with three scoreless innings. Jensen struck out four.

Offensively, the Head-Royce duo of Jones and Alex Weber-Shapiro each had two RBI. Jason Haller of St. Mary's had Oakland's only extra-base hit, a double.

On Saturday morning, the Oaks edged the Lafayette Generals 4-3. Matt Garrett of

Acalanes-Lafayette pitched a four-hitter for the Oaks. Garrett struck out two.

Jensen got the Oaks on the board in the first inning with a two-out, two-run single. Riche and O'Dowd teammate Chris Marshall each added a triple in the winning effort.

Oakland scored early and often in its third game, a 15-3 trouncing of Reno on Sunday afternoon.

The Oaks took control with a 10-run outburst in the bottom of the first inning. Reno came back for three runs in its half of the third, but Oakland responded with four in the bottom of the inning and one more in the fourth. The game ended after 4½ innings due to a 10-run rule.

Haller had a memorable game, going 3-for-3 with two doubles, a triple and four RBI. Ricketts was dangerous at the plate, too, as he went 2-for-2 with a double, three runs and three RBI. Riche also stayed hot with two hits, two runs and an RBI.

Oakland was dangerous throughout its lineup. Brandon Beal of Oakland Tech went 2-for-2 with three runs and one RBI.

Van Looy made the best of his one at-bat by belting a first-pitch RBI triple to deep center field.

Oakland was strong on the mound, too. O'Dowd's Delency Baker went the first 4½ innings for the win. Baker threw 100 pitches, yielding three runs on four hits. Baker struck out four and walked six.

Oakland Tech's Chris McClarty pitched the final two-thirds of an inning with one strikeout.

Oakland completed pool play Monday afternoon with a 5-2 win over Solano Garbage, the tournament host.

Solano took a 1-0 lead in the top of the fourth inning, only to see the Oaks go up for keeps with three runs in the bottom of the inning.

Weber-Shapiro scattered four hits in a complete-game win. Weber-Shapiro struck out six and walked one.

Ricketts went 2-for-2 and scored a run. Jesse Spears of College Prep had two RBI. Spears and Berkeley High's Jeremey Hill each doubled in the winning effort.

## Albany

FROM PAGE 1

a three-run homer to center to give Albany the lead.

Albany's Elliot Jardin added a single in the inning, but Moyer escaped without further damage.

Save for Varinsky's second hit of the day, SOLL went quietly in the fifth.

Albany, in its half of the fifth, put runners at first and second behind an error and Will Mulhaney's single. But Moyer retired the num-

bers one, two, and three batters (the dangerous Peterson was hitting third) to end the threat.

With SOLL down 3-2, center fielder Tyre Mills IV led off the sixth with a line-drive single and reached second on a passed ball. After one out, Lutz ripped a hit to center, and Mills raced toward home until he slipped and had to scamper back to third. Lutz alertly took second on the throw home, a move that proved most valuable moments later.

Yepsen then delivered the clutch, winning blow, a shot to

center that easily scored Mills and barely scored the sliding Lutz on a close play at home.

In the bottom of the sixth, Moyer closed out his complete game with a strikeout, a ground out, a single to right, and a final strikeout, his ninth, to earn the win.

SOLL — which lost its opener to East County in Oakley on July 2 and won its second game against Walnut Creek, 3-1, behind Balich's superb pitching on July 3 — advanced to the next round to play its sister league, North Oakland Little League, on Wednesday.

## Sting

FROM PAGE 1

The pattern for the tournament, however, was set in the second contest, a 15-1 victory over a tired Oakland Vipers team, which featured 12 walks to go with 12 hits. Overmatched by Sting pitchers at the end of a long day, the opponents struck out or grounded the ball weakly, and quietly expired after four innings.

In the only other game, the Sting walked over Mountain View Nova's second team 17-1.

The contest featured a first inning three-run home run by slugging infielder Diana Fong, her second homer of the season. It also featured lefty Sabina Khan handling second base, and the only player in the tournament able to hit Sting pitching: Nova's own pitcher who whacked two clean hits in her only two at-bats.

**STATS, ETC.:** Cousens executed the season's first head-long hook-slide and stretched a single into a crowd-pleasing double. ... Chin, Fong, Murakami, Smithers, Cousens, and Studin all hit .500 or better for the tournament. ... Right

fielder Lisa Gilliland leads the team with eight walks. ... Every player has at least one RBI. ... Murakami reaches first base 73 percent of the time and sports a .682 average. ... Giving it up for the team: Smithers has been hit by three pitches. ... In the tourney, Sting pitchers faced 80 trips to the plate, 47 ended in strikeouts, only six produced balls hit into the outfield. ... Fielders made only two errors on 29 chances. ... The Sting sent its 13 players to the plate 178 times, getting 59 hits and 47 free passes. ... The Sting has an 8-0 record in away games played in daylight on natural turf.

## Baseball

FROM PAGE 1

to go to at least the bottom of the fifth.

Harkness scored Albany's final run when Kevin Klotz reached on an error.

Albany's hopes to extend the game beyond five innings received an ominous blow when Vega led off the bottom of the fifth with a triple. Paniagua made a nice short-hop pick of Chris Cooper's grounder to second base, but Vega scored on the out for a 13-4 advantage.

Marcelo Muñoz, who had taken over at pitcher at the start of the previous inning, then hit Max Gerard with a pitch before striking out Andrew Watson.

Mario Moncada followed with a two-out walk to put runners at first and second for East County.

Next up was James Nickel, whose strikeout — which should have ended the inning — instead ended the game in the most bizarre way, bringing to mind stories of the aforementioned '41 World Series.

When Albany catcher McCreary failed to handle the third strike, Nickel broke toward first base with the lead runners attempting to move up in similar fashion. McCreary's throw to

third went wild, as Gerard scampered home with the game-ending run.

**STATS:** Vega and Ternes simply wore out Albany pitching.

Vega, East County's cleanup hitter, was 3-for-4 with an infield single, double and triple. He reached on a fielder's choice in his only other at-bat and finished with four runs and three RBI.

Sixth-place hitter Ternes finished with six RBI while going 2-for-2 with a pair of doubles and a sacrifice fly.

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## Seniors

FROM PAGE 1

DiFrancesco drove in the seventh SOLL run in the sixth with a sacrifice fly (scoring Harris) and Walter knocked in Ruma (who had singled) for the final run.

Through it all, Howard just kept chucking. The last four Clayton Valley hitters got some metal on the ball, but there were two pop-ups and two grounders. And he did walk Layton.

"In the last inning, I was throwing some sliders and splitters," Howard said. "In the mid-

die innings, they (Clayton Valley) weren't getting around the fast ball. I wanted to throw some different the last

In the gloaming at Peter Field in the final, it wasn't going to make a difference.

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# Arts

## Camp gives kids taste of media arts

By Brian Kluepfel  
CORRESPONDENT

While radical poet Gil Scott-Heron famously said "The revolution will not be televised," the folks at the East Bay Media Center might disagree.

For more than two decades, the downtown Berkeley duo of Mel Vapour and Paul Kealoha Blake have been producing, editing and teaching using the latest innovations in video and film.

As the host of the Berkeley Video and Film Festival since 1991, the EBMC remains on the cutting edge of American filmmaking. The reception desk at their Center Street facility was piled high with entries for this year's festival during a recent visit. A panel of local media junkies, including Vapour and Blake, scythe the entries into categories such as educational, music video, animation, ethnographic, documentary and feature.

The final result is a potpourri of pop, culture and politics. Last year's festival ran more than 12 hours — right on schedule, Vapour proudly points out — and featured 42 pieces, ranging in length from 30 seconds to 94 minutes. And it's stuff that's not going to be at the nearest multiplex.

The 2002 fest featured "Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks by Robert Hudson and Bobby Houston," and "Unprecedented: the 2000 Presidential Election" by Joan Sekler and Richard Perez. Documentaries on American Sign Language and the history of east Contra Costa County also were screened, as was a feature on a Berkeley dance troupe's trip to Tahiti.

That documentary, "Black Pearl," brought special pride to Vapour and Blake, because one of its creators, Hoku Uchiyama, is a graduate of EBMC educational programs. Three alumni of the EBMC, including Uchiyama, are now at New York University film school. This demonstrates what Vapour called a "shift in advocacy to teaching" on the part of him and Blake.

"(Uchiyama) is a prolific kid," said Vapour. "We feel gratified when they come back." Another recent graduate is already working at ScreenGems as a line producer at the ripe age of 20. "We have some highly talented kids," said Vapour.

Each summer, 15 local teens get a crash course in writing, storyboarding and shooting a video in the EBMC's Media Camp, with Kenya Davis and Blake serving as primary instructors. Last year, two groups produced videos for the music of Big Brutha Soul (of



**ALICE TERRY AND NATHAN PILLER** are instructed by Paul Kealoha Blake on the art of digital editing, using iMovie software. Below, a video made by last year's summer media camp for Big Brutha Soul's "What's It Gonna Be" won the top Dolphin Award at the Moondance International Film Festival.

### IF YOU GO

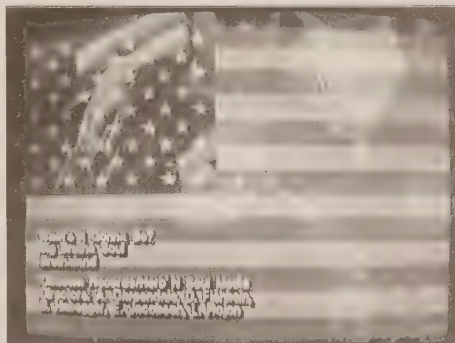
**WHAT:** East Bay Media Center's Summer Media Camp  
**WHEN:** Through July 25  
**WHERE:** 1939 Addison St., Berkeley  
**INFO:** 510-943-3699, maketv@aol.com

Digital Underground fame), and the results of the three-week process were inspiring — and not only to the creators.

"When we screened the videos for the parents, there wasn't a dry eye in the house," said Vapour. A more judgmental panel, however, also saw the video for "What's It Gonna Be?" as a triumph. The Boulder, Colo., Moondance Festival named "What's It Gonna Be" as the Dolphin Award winner for best short film this spring.

In addition to basking in the glow of such an honor, the Media Camp kids witness the nuts-and-bolts decision-making process that goes into any video or film. They argue, they cut, they brainstorm, they advocate their vision of the final project; and in a typically messy, democratic manner, it gets done.

Vapour says the process is much easier than when he started in film. "I had to put up my car as collateral in 1965 to rent a Bolex camera to make my



first film," he said. Moving on from the Ann Arbor Film Festival, he relocated to Berkeley, where he met up with Blake at a Brownie McGhee concert at the Freight and Salvage. The duo have moved forward with the advent of computing and low-cost video equipment, continuing to push their vision into the 21st century (they purchased the building that houses EBMC in 1997).

New concepts and combinations are now possible through technology. One of EBMC's more intriguing education programs is George Aguilera's Digital Film Making workshop. Using low-cost hardware and software, students learn to make "digital po-

etry," a sort of televised collage of sound and images, often inspired by a piece of literature like Sylvia Plath's "Agitated Beauty."

But just because everyone has access to the technology these days doesn't mean they are the next Truffaut, Fellini, Blank or Herzog. "My question always is, 'can you tell a story?'" said Vapour. He and Blake continue to hunt down those stories and present them to the public through their annual festival, all the while honing the skills of the next generation of video-activists.

So maybe the revolution won't be televised, but it will be screened.

## 'Gentlemen' aren't very extraordinary

By Mary F. Pols  
STAFF WRITER

The very first crumbling building in "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen" signals trouble. It is meant to be an imposing structure made of stone, but instead seems to have the texture and weight of the Styrofoam frame your last electronics purchase came swathed in. Watching it fall is a singularly unexciting experience.

If an action-adventure movie based on a comic book — albeit a highly respected and rather refined one like Alan Moore's (who created "From Hell" as well) — can't get the action right, there is little hope for the rest of the story. That's really a shame, because Moore's premise was such a clever one, and it's completely wasted in this dreary, humorless adaptation.

### REVIEW

**■ WHAT:** "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen"

**■ STARRING:** Sean Connery, Naseeruddin Shah, Peta Wilson, Tony Curran, Shane West, Stuart Townsend, Jason Fiemyng, Richard Roxburgh

**■ RATING:** PG-13 (intense sequences of fantasy violence, language and innuendo)

**■ RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 52 minutes

**■ WHERE:** Opens today at area theaters

**■ GRADE:** D

In his series, which he began in 1999, Moore imagined a world in which a group of legendary characters from other writers' fiction co-existed in late 19th-century Britain and came together to work as a crime-fighting team. Jules Verne's Captain Nemo solved mysteries in collaboration with H. Rider Haggard's Allan Quatermain, with assistance from H.G. Wells' Invisible Man, Robert Louis Stevenson's "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" and Mina Harker from Bram Stoker's "Dracula." Characters such as Oscar Wilde's Dorian Gray occasionally paid a call.

It's a delightful concept, to be lauded for the way it incorporates elements avid readers already love and for the inspiration it doubtless provides to those who adore Moore's series to go back and discover the original sources. A smart high school teacher could tailor an entire freshman reading course around "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen."

All of these characters are

See LEAGUE, Page C5

## Funny things happen everywhere you look



**JACK TUCKER**  
Community Theater

**T**HIS IS THE SUMMER of funny things happening. No — not those crop circles. They're, well, *funny* funny. But what about the bumper crop of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum?" Four Northern California theatre companies are producing it this summer and fall.

Why the sudden interest in this 40-year-old musical farce? I asked Louis Flynn of Contra Costa Civic Theatre, where the first of the four productions opens tonight.

"Those things just seem to happen," he said. "Theaters have core audiences. They know what their audiences like, and their audiences know what to expect. They like musicals and they like farces. 'A Funny Thing' is both of those."

"It's good light entertainment for the summer. And a show like this is just fun to do. I know our cast is having a lot of fun. And Matt (Flynn's son, a professional scenic designer working in Los Angeles) has designed a great set."

Having fun, too, no doubt. Fred Chacon, who is directing "Funny Thing" at Alameda Civic Light Opera (opening Aug. 8), says much the same thing, according to publicist Allan Mann.

"It's just pure fun to perform



**RUDY GUERRERO** aims to set hearts aflutter as "Don Juan."

and experience," Chacon says.

The other two shows will be performed at the Coastal Repertory Theatre of Half Moon Bay (July 25) and the Contra Costa Musical Theatre (Oct. 3).

The word for such simultaneous occurrences is "synchronicity." No secret conspiracy. No spooky, arcane reasons. Just a lot of fun-loving theatrical folks hitting on the same play at the same time.

Come to think of it, in its own way, that is as creepy as crop circles.

**'FAUST' AT JULIA MORGAN:** Berkeley Opera concludes its 2003 season with six performances of Charles Gounod's "Faust" at the Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Performances are 8 p.m. next Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday; same days and times the following weekend, July 25, 26 and 27.

Gounod's "Faust" was inspired by Goethe's play, and contains music he wrote in bits and pieces over 20 years. The work finally came together with a libretto by Jules Barbier and Michel Carré, and was presented for the first time in Paris in 1859 as an "opéra-comique" with spoken dialogue. The success of this version led to its transformation into a grand opera with sung recitative.

Berkeley Opera's "Faust" is directed by Ann Woodhead. Jonathan Khuner is music director and conductor, assisted by Jason Sherbundy who doubles as chorus director.

Tickets are \$38 general, \$33 for seniors, \$16 for youths and handicapped patrons. A limited number of side seats with possible partial obstructed view also are available for \$16. Full-time students with ID may purchase unsold tickets one-half hour prior to curtain. Call 925-798-1300.

**'DON JUAN' IN MARIN:** A world premiere of a new translation of Molière's "Don Juan" by Robert W. Goldsby and An-

See THEATER, Page C5



## Down from the mountain

**FOLK ARTISTS** Carol Elizabeth Jones and Laurel Bliss specialize in authentic Appalachian-style music, ranging from Carter Family classics to Jones' originals, which add a contemporary touch to the timeless style. Jones, on guitar, and Bliss, on dobro, will showcase the new album "Girl from Jericho" during a concert at the Freight & Salvage on Sunday. Jones and Bliss perform 8 p.m. Sunday at the Freight, 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. Tickets are \$15.50. Contact 510-548-1761 or www.thefreight.org.



## NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. The reviewers are Mary F. Pols, Times; Robert W. Butler, Chris Hewitt, Knight Rider Newspapers; Glenn Lovell, Bruce Newman, San Jose Mercury News; David Germain, Christy Lemire, Jocelyn Noveck, Ben Nuckols, Malcolm Riter and Matt Wolf, Associated Press; Stephen Holden, Dave Kehr, Elvis Mitchell and A.O. Scott, New York Times; Jack Matthews, New York Daily News; Evan Henderson, Bob Strauss, Glenn Whipp, Los Angeles Daily News; Manohla Dargis, Kevin Thomas and Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times; Ed Bark, Nancy Churnin, Chris Vogner, Philip Whitt, Dallas Morning News; Robert Philpot, Fort Worth Star-Telegram; Jay Boyar, Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel; Joe Batake, Sacramento Bee; Ann Hornaday and Stephen Hunter, Washington Post.

**"ALEX & EMMA":** A sweet but tepid romantic comedy from Rob Reiner. Alex (Luke Wilson), a novelist suffering from writer's block and massively in debt to Cuban loan sharks, hires stenographer Emma (Kate Hudson) after the bad guys destroy his laptop and give him 30 days to finish. The story, as Alex dictates it to us, is absolute hack, and seeing the chapters played out by Wilson, Sophie Marceau and Hudson is no particular thrill. Hudson has darkened her golden hair to a mousy brown for the role, and the movie substantiates that theory about blondes having more fun. — M. Pols. (PG-13: some sexuality, adult language.) 1 hour, 36 minutes. C

**"BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM":** This

## OPENING TODAY

**"THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN" (PG-13)** The fate of the world is at stake, and extraordinary figures with legendary powers join together as a team to save mankind. Starring Sean Connery.

genial ethnic sports comedy directed by Gurinder Chadha was a big hit in Britain. Jess (Parminder Nagra) is the younger daughter in a family of middle-class Punjabi immigrants residing in a London suburb. Her passion for soccer puts her at odds with her parents, who think sports are an improper pastime for an almost-grown teenager with marriage and university to think about. The result is a culture clash that ripples outward from her own household. — A.O. Scott. (PG-13: language, sexual content.) 1 hour, 52 minutes. C-

**"BRUCE ALMIGHTY":** After local TV reporter Bruce (Jim Carrey) gets fired, he complains so much about his lot in life that God (Morgan Freeman) decides to teach him a lesson. Granted God's powers, the reporter gives himself the ultimate scoop (he finds the body of Jimmy Hoffa), turns his girlfriend (Jennifer Aniston) into a panting she-cat and generally takes very good care of himself. We're supposed to think this a wonderful insincere life (there's even a clip of the Jimmy Stewart classic at one point), but as rendered by Carrey, Bruce is just a whining, despicable, unworthy bore.

**"MADAME SATO" (NR)** Dramatic bio-pic about a notorious figure in Brazilian culture — Madame Sato, bandit, transvestite, street fighter, brothel cook, convict, gay performer and father to seven adopted children.

Carrey, returning to comedy after trying his hand at drama to minimal box office success, seems shut off from human contact. You look into his eyes and see only rage. Not the best recipe for an allegedly feel-good movie. As God, however, Freeman is good. — M. Pols. (PG-13: language, sexual content and some crude humor.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. C-

**"CAPTURING THE FRIEDMANS":** If you're at a cocktail party this summer and you're chatting with two other people who've just discovered that they've both seen this fascinating new documentary from novice director Andrew Jarecki, consider yourself conversationally dead in the water. The only reasonable solution is to get out and see it for yourself so you can join in the debate about the Friedmans, a Long Island family that fell apart in the late 1980s after the dad was accused of sexually molesting a dozen or so neighborhood boys. Was he railroaded? Did he do it? You decide. You won't leave feeling cheery, but this roller coaster of a film is deeply challenging. — M. Pols. (NR) 1 hour, 47 minutes. A

**"CHARLIE'S ANGELS: FULL THROTTLE":** Fun is infectious, which is why the first "Charlie's Angels" worked. But forced, toothy grins that go on far longer than cheek muscles or genuine merriment allow also tend to set a tone, which makes this feel strained and tedious. Not to say there isn't some goofy humor here, but there's also a sinking sense that you've seen much of it before. Director McG pilfers from others rather than creating for himself (he's still stealing from the first "Matrix"), and the girls are starting to seem like a table full of giggling cheerleaders in the high school cafeteria, so hopped up on how adorable they are that they don't realize their charms are wearing thin. Dem Moore as the villain does look fabulous, but she still can't act. — M. Pols. (PG-13: action violence, sensuality and language/innuendo.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. C+

**"CHICAGO":** Why was it again that Hollywood stopped making movie musicals? Who decided we shouldn't leave a theater humming that catchy tune, fighting the urge to tap dance our way across the lobby? "Chicago" is the kind of uplifting, exhilarating movie that makes you ask these questions. Vastly talented Renee Zellweger even manages to upstage stage Catherine Zeta-Jones in this tawdry tale, originally based on true-crime cases and later made into a Broadway musical. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content and dialogue, violence and thematic elements.) 1 hour, 53 minutes. A

**"DADDY DAY CARE":** Mild, sweet and family-friendly, the quintessential in-flight movie. Eddie Murphy, his propensity for filthy raw humor completely neutered, stars as a marketing executive too busy to pay much attention to his adorable little girl (Oakland native Khamani Griffin). When he and his best buddy (Jeff Garlin) get laid off and become stay-at-home dads, they decide to open a day-care center. Lots of jokes about Ritalin and dirty diapers follow. The weird thing is, the once-greedy Murphy has become almost too gracious with sharing the punch lines. — M. Pols. (PG: language.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. C+

**"THE DANCER UPSTAIRS":** In this pleasurable nerve-jangling thriller, Spanish actor Javier Bardem plays a tender-eyed cop named Agustín Rejas trying to track down a mysterious terrorist in a highly corrupt South American country. Written by Nicholas Shakespeare, who adapted the screenplay from his novel, and directed with confident flair by actor John Malkovich, this film involves Rejas' two-track inquiry into a spasm of terror and, rather less satisfactorily for us, the uneasy stirrings of the policeman's heart. — M. Dargis. (R: strong violence and language.) 2 hour, 9 minutes. B-

**"DOWN WITH LOVE":** A fairly winning new romantic comedy that could be right out of the Restoration Hardware catalogue, a stylistic homage to the '60s Donay-Doris-Hudson comedies. Renee Zellweger is Barbara Novak, author of a shocking new feminist treatise that proposes women who want to get ahead should put aside love. It's a huge publishing hit, but it hampers the sex life of cocky journalist Catcher Block (McGregor), who decides to prove that Barbara is a squishy love nut at heart. Clever retro-style editing really works, the sexual innuendo and banter fly like the Concorde; and Catcher's sidekick, David Hyde Pierce, has exquisite comic timing. But the combination of McGregor's creepy smirk and Zellweger's weirdly puffy face is off-putting and the freshness runs out before the end arrives. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual humor and dialogue.) 1 hour, 34 minutes. B-

**"DUMB AND DUMBERER: WHEN HARRY MET LLOYD":** Peter and Bobby Farrelly, the ingeniously bent brothers behind the original "Dumb and Dumber," came nowhere near this edition. And it shows — painfully so. There is a knack to crafting both stupid and grotesque comedy smartly, and this movie's creative team doesn't have it. As the film's title indicates, this movie takes place prior to the original "Working with a Plan" about how the pals met, Eric Christian Olsen and Derek Richardson are uncannily convincing as the youthful versions of, respectively, Jim Carrey's Lloyd Christmas and Jeff Daniels' Harry Dunne. It really is a shame that such hard-working, talented young actors weren't afforded the inspired humor they deserved to riff on. — B. Strauss. (PG-13: language, mild violence.) 1 hour, 22 minutes. D+

**"THE EYE":** This artful, unsettling ghost story uses simple and precise techniques to scare you before you even understand what there is to be afraid of. Blind since childhood, Mun (Lee Sin-Jie) undergoes a cornea transplant and ends up not only with two new eyes, but also with second sight. To borrow the tag line from another movie, she sees dead people. And like the spectators seen in "The Sixth Sense," they seem less interested in harming her than in soliciting some kind of posthumous therapy. What is most impressive about "The Eye" is its delicacy. Lee looks convincingly haunted by what she sees, and Thai-born directors Oxide and Danny Pang's pictorial instinct is as sure as their shock-producing sense of timing. — A.O. Scott. (NR: Cantonese/Mandarin/Thai with English subtitles.) 1 hour, 28 minutes. A-

**"FINDING NEMO":** Another delight of the imagination from Pixar, set under the sea, in the realm of fish who talk real estate, sharks who try to be better denizens of the deep, and lobsters named Mike. Nemo, a small clown fish, is plucked from the ocean and dropped into a fish tank in a dentist's office in Sydney. His timid father, Marlin, travels many leagues to find him, accompanied by a dopey but very funny tang fish (voiced by Ellen DeGeneres). The ideal blend of sentiment and sparking humor, perfect for kids, charming for parents, and so good it's likely to appeal to a few souls who are neither. — M. Pols. (G) 1 hour, 41 minutes. A

**"FROM JUSTIN TO KELLY":** Annette and Frankie they aren't. And that's a good thing. This post-"American Idol" concoction stars Kelly Clarkson and Justin Guarini, but borrows heavily from the "Beach Party" films of yore. The plot — boys meet girls on spring break in Miami — works 12 listenable tunes into its smoothly packaged, connect-the-dots plot. The 'Idols' first movie together is a better-than-expected diversion that likely won't leave anyone feeling cheap or cheated. No harm, no foul. — E. Bark. (PG: brief language, sensuality.) 1 hour, 21 minutes. C+

**"GHOSTS OF THE ABYSS":** Fans of the all-time moneymaking film "Titanic" will cherish James Cameron's new IMAX feature documentary, which explores the remains of the ship with

great intimacy. Those who shudder at the sentimentalism so much to admire in the movie details of the ship and its crew, without pedantry, and the era's bring all those details to life. — P. Winton. (G) 1 hour, 41 minutes. A

**"THE HARD WORD":** Film director Scott Roberts, who has a script, clearly knows a genre. He can handle a grimly as a shoot-out, but makes sure the character to catch their breath and off-kilter natures. This small bauble of a caper comes as it is entertaining. Guy Damien Richardson and tone are brothers Dale, M. Shane, respectively, spruce to do one job, then black pull off an even bigger one off bookies at the Melbourne. Pulling the strings is Dale's lawyer who is also getting figures that Dale — the brains of the operation — pensable and thick enough to see what's what. He's worth counts. — E. Henderson. (PG: language, nudity.) 43 minutes. B

**"THE HEART OF ME":** shake the feeling of déjà vu movie is a touching, if not penance. We're in 1930s England, in a lovely upstate home in London. It times, as in any good B film, are perfect. The story laced passion rubbing up at conventions. And the cast that familiar darling of Helena Bonham Carter, B. Rosamond Lehman's 1930s "The Echoing Grove," the of two sisters: Madeleine Williams) is the proper on life depends on keeping together; Dinah (Bonham Carter) wilder, more passionate of their worlds collide when she develops between the Madeline's husband, Richard (tany). — J. Noveck. (R: strong language.) 1 hour, 36 minutes. C

**"HOLES":** You walk out wondering why more kids aren't like this — exciting, clever and completely has out a trace of condescension making that confronts serious temporary social themes, gentle, old-fashioned magic on Louis Sachar's Newbery winning novel "Holes," and Stanley (the winning Shaquille O'Neal) who lands at a Texas work thanks to a curse on his grandfather unravels the mystery (Sigmund) who makes the inmates dig a hole every day. Sachar's screenplay, his first ever

See REVIEWS, p. 10

## FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

## Showtimes for Friday July 11

## Alameda County

**Act 1 and 2**  
2128 Center St., Berkeley 510-548-7249  
●Capturing the Friedmans (Not Rated) 7, 9, 40  
●The Legend of Suriyothai (R) 6:30, 9:30.

## Albany Twin

1115 Solano Ave., Albany 510-452-9588  
●Swimming Pool (R) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45  
●Winged Migration 11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:30, 9:45

## AMC Bay Street 16

5614 Shellmound St., Emeryville 510-457-4262  
●Fast 2 Furious (PG-13) 4:30, 9:50  
●Alex & Emma (PG-13) 7:35, 9:55  
●Send It Like Beckham (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10  
●Finding Nemo (G) 12:30, 1:25, 2:15, 3:30, 4:45, 6:15, 7:15, 8:45, 9:45  
●Hollywood Homicide (PG-13) 1:45, 7:05, 9:45  
●The Hulk (PG-13) 12:20, 1:40, 3:20, 4:40, 6:20, 7:40, 9:20  
●The Italian Job (PG-13) 12:35, 2:10, 3:10, 4:45, 5:45, 7:20, 8:20, 9:55  
●The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (PG-13) 12:05, 1:35, 2:40, 4:15, 5:15, 7:8, 9:45, 10:40  
●Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde (PG-13) 12:45, 3:4, 5:20, 6:15, 7:45, 8:45, 9:30, 10:10  
●The Matrix Reloaded (R) 1, 4, 7, 10  
●Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (PG) 12:15, 12:55, 1:35, 2:35, 3:50, 4:50, 5:50, 7:10, 9:10

## California Theatre

2113 Kittredge St., Berkeley 510-848-0249  
●L'Amour Espagnole (R) 7:10, 9:45  
●A Mighty Wind (PG-13) 7:20, 9:35  
●Whale Rider (PG-13) 7, 9:25

## Chabot Space &amp; Science Centre

10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland 510-336-7300  
●The Human Body (Not Rated) 12:30, 5:30  
●Lewis & Clark (Not Rated) 11:30, 2:30, 4:30  
●The Living Sea (Not Rated) 1:30  
●To Fly! (Not Rated) 10:30, 3:30  
●The War of the Worlds (G) 7:30

## Elmwood 3

2966 College Ave., Berkeley 510-649-0530  
●Bowling for Columbine (R) 1:45, 6:45  
●The Eye (Not Rated) 2:45, 7  
●Marooned in Iraq (Not Rated) 12:45, 4:45, 8  
●The Matrix Reloaded (R) 4, 9  
●Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working with Time (Not Rated) 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:15, 9:15

## Fine Arts Cinema

2451 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-848-1143  
●Theatre Closed for Remodeling.

## Renaissance Grand Lake

3200 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-452-3556  
●Finding Nemo (G) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:20  
●Pirates of the Caribbean (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7, 9:45  
●Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (PG) 12:15, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9:40  
●Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (R) 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10.

## Jack London Stadium

100 Washington St., Oakland 510-433-1320  
●28 Days Later (R) 11:50, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:40  
●Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 12, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15  
●Finding Nemo (G) 11:30, 1:55, 4:20, 7:20, 9:45  
●The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (PG-13) 11:25, 2:05, 4:45, 7:25, 10:05  
●Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde (PG-13) 11:45, 12:45, 2:10, 3:10, 4:35, 5:35, 7:10, 9:30  
●Pirates of the Caribbean (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7, 10:10  
●Sinbad (PG) 12:10, 2:25, 4:40, 7:05, 9:15  
●Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (R) 11:15, 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 8, 10, 10:45

## Renaissance Oaks Theatre

1875 Solano Ave., Berkeley 510-526-1836  
●Down with Love (PG-13) 7:15, 9:15  
●Holes (PG) 2:15, 4:30  
●Sinbad (PG) 2:30, 4:45, 7, 9  
●Parkway Theater  
1834 Park Blvd., Oakland 510-814-2400  
●The Italian Job (PG-13) 7, 9:45  
●The Matrix Reloaded (R) 9:15  
●Piedmont Theatre  
4186 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-654-2758  
●Swimming Pool (R) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45  
●Whale Rider (PG-13) 11:15, 1:35, 4, 6:30, 9  
●Winged Migration (G) 11:30, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15

## Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-644-2992  
●Bend It Like Beckham (PG-13) 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:20  
●Finding Nemo (G) 1:45, 4:15, 7, 9, 25  
●The Hard Word (R) 4, 9, 45  
●The Italian Job (PG-13) 2, 4:40, 7:10, 9, 25  
●Madame Sato (Not Rated) 1:40, 2:40, 6:55, 9:15  
●Man On The Train (R) 2:30, 4:45, 7:05, 9:10  
●Nowhere in Africa (R) 1, 6, 40  
●Raising Victor Vargas (R) 2:40, 4:50, 7:20, 9, 25  
●Respiro (PG-13) 2:45, 5, 7:15, 9:30  
●Spellbound (G) 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9  
●Together (R) 1:05, 3:45, 6:30, 9:05

## United Artists Berkeley 7

2274 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-0193  
●28 Days Later (R) 11:15, 2, 4:30, 7:05, 10  
●Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 11, 1:30, 4:15, 7:20, 9:55  
●The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (PG-13) 10:45, 1:20, 4, 7, 9:45  
●Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde (PG-13) 12, 2:30, 5, 7:45, 10:10  
●Pirates of the Caribbean (PG-13) 10:30, 11:05, 1:45, 2:45, 5:10, 7:15, 8:15, 10:30  
●Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (R) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15

## United Artists Emery Bay Stadium 10

6330 Christie Ave., Emeryville 510-420-0492  
●28 Days Later (R) 11:50, 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 10:45  
●Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 11:40, 1, 2:20, 3:40, 5, 6:20, 7:40, 9, 10:20, 11:40  
●Pirates of the Caribbean (PG-13) 11:50, 12:50, 1:50, 3:10, 4:10, 5:10, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:45, 10:45, 11:40  
●Rugrats Go Wild (PG) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30  
●Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (R) 11:30, 12:40, 1:20, 2, 3:20, 4, 4:40, 5:55, 6:40, 7:20, 8, 8:40, 9:20, 10, 10:40, 11:20

## Central Contra Costa

Renaissance Orinda Theatre  
4 Orinda Theatre Sq., Orinda 925-254-0600  
●Finding Nemo (G) 11:45, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:20  
●Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde (PG-13) 11:30, 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30  
●Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (PG) 12, 2:10, 4, 6, 8, 9:45

## Renaissance Park Theatre

3319 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette 925-283-7997  
●Swimming Pool (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:30

## Rheem Theatre

350 Park St., Moraga 925-989-3411  
●The Italian Job (PG-13) 11:45, 2, 4:10, 7, 9:30  
●The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (PG-13) 11:55, 2:10, 4:20, 7:15, 9:35  
●Pirates of the Caribbean (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 6:45, 9:40  
●Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (R) 11:45, 2, 4:10, 7, 9:30

## East Contra Costa

## Brenden 16 Pittsburg

4085 Century Blvd., Pittsburg 925-706-1222  
●28 Days Later (R) 11, 1, 3:30, 4, 7:30, 10  
●Bruce Almighty (PG-13) 10:40, 1, 3:20, 5:40  
●Century 16 Hilltop  
3200 Klose Way, Richmond 510-758-2345  
●28 Days Later (R) 11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50  
●Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 12:15, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20  
●Finding Nemo (G) 11:30, 2, 4:30, 7:05, 9:30  
●The Hulk (PG-13) 1:05, 4:15, 7:20, 10:20  
●The Italian Job (PG-13) 11:45, 2:20, 5, 7:35, 10:10  
●The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (PG-13) 11:25, 12:20, 1:55, 2:50, 4:25, 5:20, 7, 7:55, 9:35, 10:30  
●Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde (PG-13) 11:25, 12:10, 12:55, 1:45, 2:30, 3:15, 4:05, 4:50, 5:40, 6:25, 8, 10:25  
●Pirates of the Caribbean (PG-13) 11:05, 1, 2:10, 3:10, 4:10, 5:25, 6:20, 7:20, 8:35, 9:30, 10:30  
●Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (PG) 11:30, 12:35, 1:40, 3:50, 6, 8:05, 10:15  
●Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (R) 11:50, 1:10, 2:30, 3:50, 5:10, 6:30, 7:10, 7:45, 8:40, 9:10, 9:50, 10:25

## AMC Van Ness 14

1000 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco 415-922-4262  
●28 Days Later (R) 2:05, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10  
●Bruce Almighty (PG-13) 12:50, 3:15, 5:45, 8:05, 10:25  
●Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 2, 2:30, 5:30, 8:10, 10:50  
●Finding Nemo (G) 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:40  
●The Hulk (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7, 10:15  
●The Italian Job (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7, 10:15  
●The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7, 10:15  
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●Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (PG) 12:3



League

M PAGE C3

In director Steve Norring-  
"Blade" big screen rendi-  
Quatermain is played by  
Connelly, who at 72 is look-  
little long in the tooth to be  
ing in knife fights.  
eruddin Shah is a dignified  
o, Stuart Townsend plays  
an Gray, Peta Wilson is  
Tony Curran gets the sassy  
of the Invisible Man, here  
Rodney Skinner. Jason Fle-  
is Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.  
new character has been d-  
to this collection of Brits,  
Tom Sawyer (Shane West  
TV's "Once and Again"),  
n beyond Mark Twain's vi-  
into a full-fledged American  
service agent. Apparently,  
dition is supposed to make  
merican audiences feel in-  
ed. Call me unapologetic, but  
ld have done without West,  
uses a curled-up expression  
nvey all of Sawyer's emo-  
which range from cocky  
ado to obvious (and unre-  
) just for Mina. James Dale-  
nson's screenplay has  
ermain and Sawyer devel-  
a father-son relationship,  
ugh frankly, they look more  
randd and grandson than

pere and fils.  
The gang is brought together  
by British Intelligence Agent M  
(Richard Roxburgh, the slimy  
duke from "Moulin Rouge") and  
asked to save the world. Some-  
one should tell the world that if  
it keeps crying wolf over need-  
ing to be saved, we're all going  
to start ignoring it. Is there some  
rule that every blockbuster movie  
must include a world-saving mo-  
tivation? No wonder everyone I  
know is praying that "Seabiscuit"  
gets us out of this rut.  
Germans are to blame for the  
current disturbance of the peace.  
Something involving arming the  
world with weapons of mass de-  
struction.  
They're planning on showing  
off their new technologies by  
blowing up Venice during a sum-  
mit of world leaders. If these  
leaders see how well the  
weapons work on Venice, pre-  
sumably they'll all want to take  
some home. Except, won't they  
be dead? Oh, bother. Just skate  
over that detail. The script does,  
with the frantic, desperate en-  
ergy of a dog trying to get a pur-  
chase on a limo-fueled floor.  
Off the heroes go to Paris and  
Venice, or rather terrible models  
of those cities, where the movie  
continues its parade of one  
poorly executed special effect af-  
ter another, all conducted in the

dark as if to hide the inadequa-  
cies. If you thought the Hulk  
looked bad, wait until you see  
this movie's version of Mr. Hyde,  
who resembles a collection of  
plastic hams bound together and  
topped with poor Flemmyng's  
head. Maybe it's all supposed to  
look quaint, like "Raiders of the  
Lost Ark." Instead, it just looks  
lousy.  
Bad special effects would be  
survivable if the characters were  
captivating. Quatermain is the  
only one we get to know at all,  
and he's nothing more than the  
usual Connelly strick — gruff  
and tough, yet tender inside. The  
script renders everyone else one-  
dimensional; we don't care a whit  
for them. It is possible to juggle  
a large number of main charac-  
ters — think how well Bryan  
Singer did it in both "X-Men"  
movies — but no one seems to  
have bothered here.  
The Extraordinary Gentle-  
men, and the one Gentlewoman,  
are just supporting players to  
Connelly, and he's no longer  
enough to carry an action movie.  
He's a treasure, but it's time for  
him to take a graceful bow out  
of this genre.

Reach Mary F. Pols at 925-945-  
4741 or mpols@cctimes.com.

Theater

FROM PAGE C3

gela Paton also opens next Fri-  
day — the second of three pro-  
ductions this summer by Marin  
Shakespeare Company.  
This black comedy follows  
Don Juan as he rejects con-  
ventional morality, including rules  
of love. Rudy Guerrero of Oakland  
stars in the title role, with  
Thomas Lynch of Berkeley as  
his servant, Sganarelle.  
Goldsby directs this produc-  
tion of the late 17th century  
work. It promises to be a lavish  
affair with costume design by  
two-time Academy Award nomi-  
nee Julie Weiss. Plays at 8 p.m.  
Fridays and Saturdays and at 4  
p.m. and 8 p.m. Sundays from  
July 18 through Aug. 17 at For-  
est Meadows Outdoor Am-  
phitheatre. That's on Grand Ave-  
nue, Dominican University, San  
Rafael. Tickets are \$25 general,  
\$23 for seniors (age 65 and over)  
and \$15 for youths (age 18 and  
under). Call 415-499-4488. The  
Web site is www.marinshake-  
speare.org.  
"WYRD IN BERKELEY:  
"The Wyrd Sisters," an inge-  
nious take on Shakespeare's  
"Macbeth" by Gary Graves, di-  
rected by Jan Zvaifler, continues

weekends at the Berkeley City  
Club, 2315 Durant Ave. through  
July 27. Curtain times are 8 p.m.  
Fridays and Saturdays, 5 p.m.  
Sundays.  
The clever comedy steers  
clear of the inherent fright and  
fight of the Bard's tragedy. In-  
stead, Graves has taken some of  
the original elements and woven  
them into a modern parable  
about sibling rivalry, overween-  
ing ambition and — of course —  
witchcraft.  
The same cast, playwright  
and director that brought us last  
year's "Lear"-inspired "Every  
Inch a King" bring "Wyrd" to life  
in this Central Works produc-  
tion.  
Rica Anderson and Claudia  
Rosa are the MacDonald sisters,  
Beth and Bennita. They work as  
a door-to-door sales team for the  
Macway Corporation (cleaning  
supplies). On a business trip,  
they get lost and stumble into a  
spooky mansion inhabited by Al-  
cie (Sandra Schlechter) whose  
ragged garb and crackly voice  
provide the essential witchery.  
The play plays a bit with rep-  
etition in the mid-portion of the  
uninterrupted 80-some minutes,  
but finds its finale — with apolo-  
gies to T. S. Eliot — not with a  
whimper but a bang.  
Tickets are \$8-\$20 sliding  
scale. Call 510-558-1381.

'CHARITY' IN PINOLE: One  
of the honest to gosh, down-  
home charms of community the-  
ater is an indefinable aura of  
folks who know and like each  
other getting together to put on  
a show. Pinole Community Play-  
ers has perfected the art — or  
actually, the artlessness — of  
such endeavors.  
Its current production of  
"Sweet Charity," playing at 8  
p.m. Fridays and Saturdays  
through July 19 with a final 2  
p.m. matinee this coming Sun-  
day, is a good example.  
Edged with the wistful loneli-  
ness of Charity (Sara Pedri) as  
she searches for love and iden-  
tity, Neil Simon's story, neverthe-  
less, is upbeat through sheer ex-  
uberance. High dance energy,  
thanks to choreographer Anjee  
Norgaard. Smart costuming  
adds visual luster, thanks to  
Janet O'Brien, Patti Clark, Vir-  
ginia Hazel and Cathy Loew.  
Plays at the Pinole Community  
Playhouse, 601 Tennyson Ave.,  
Pinole. Tickets are \$15 general,  
\$12 for seniors and students  
with ID. Call 510-724-3669.

Send theater items of interest to  
Jack Tucker, 4301 Lakeside  
Drive, Richmond, CA 94806; e-  
mail to jtucker@cctimes.com;  
fax to 510-262-2776, or call 510-  
262-2768.

Reviews

M PAGE C4

Or maybe you would, be-  
it has an unpredictability that is  
rare these days. — M. Pols.  
violence, mild language and  
thematic elements.) 1 hour, 51  
mins. A-  
"WYWOOD HOMICIDE": A scat-  
terplotted disappointment from  
director Ron Shelton, who  
the still-charming confection  
Outland and the intelligent po-  
rtrayment drama "Dark Blue."  
comedy, starring older cutie Har-  
Ford and younger cutie Josh  
duke as mismatched partners,  
siats at being both those films,  
a combination doesn't work.  
a game, Hartnett exudes sweet-  
and Lena Olin tries to bring Su-  
zanne-style energy to her part  
sly psychic. But their charac-  
ers mapped together, the plot is  
and the comedy is underwrit-  
en is the movie that beats a  
one joke to death; that's so  
— M. Pols. (PG-13: violence,  
situations, language.) 1 hour,  
rutes. C  
"HULK": In director Ang Lee's  
vibrant adaptation of "The Hulk"  
books, we actually feel what  
John taken for granted — that  
puro is lonely, tormented  
sue. The movie's dynamic  
n sliding and multiple split  
e that harken back to the  
omic-book origins, may turn  
w viewers. The action scenes  
start until a half-hour into the  
n the slightly geeky scientist  
Banner (the very appealing  
first morphs into a some-  
ward but not unacceptable  
star-generated Hulk. Too bad  
e who subsist on a diet of  
e action movies but great for  
e who actually cares about the  
Nick Nolte steals scene after  
as Banner's wayward father,  
Brett Sparkles and Jennifer  
shy does a decent job providing  
fours. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sci-fi  
violence, some disturbing im-  
and brief partial nudity.) 2 hours,  
mins. B+  
"ITALIAN JOB": A life of crime  
Mini Cooper is somewhat  
sual, but by the end of this  
funny action flick, you will prob-  
ably to indulge in both. Mark  
erg plays the head of a group  
f lovable thieves, including Ja-  
nam, a winning Mos Def and  
us Seth Green as the computer  
We get two heists for the price  
During the first, a nifty boat  
rough Venice, our boys are  
crossed by a colleague (Ed-  
mon) who makes off with all  
A year later, the team is  
to take it back. Charlize Theron  
a master safecracker with per-  
sons for getting involved. —  
(PG-13: violence, some lan-  
1 hour, 44 minutes. B+  
"MAG": Can a vain, luxury-loving  
can in flight from an abusive  
find happiness with a dour  
actor of frozen foods who  
from crippling panic attacks?  
the question posed by this  
French romantic trifle that nses  
the mundane on the strength  
beautifully detailed lead per-  
s, Rose (Juliette Binoche) and  
Jean Reno) converge at  
de Gaulle Airport during one  
of air traffic nightmares, and the  
randed strangers decide (for  
ke of convenience) to share a  
oom for the night. The screen-  
eoples high-resolution portraits  
old couple, who grow fond of  
her despite enough petty ir-  
s and misunderstandings. —  
dan. (R: French, with English  
sub, sexual situations, some nu-  
r, 31 minutes. B-  
"BERGE ESPAGNOLE": The  
e have a history of making  
about post-adolescents who  
eking for the meaning of life,  
his one is worth investigating.  
his is Xavier (Romain Duris), a  
ou Parisian who leaves his  
childhood (Audrey Tautou) to  
Barcelona for a year of gradu-

ate study. His education begins in  
earnest when he lands at a cramped  
flat occupied by six other college stu-  
dents, each from a different European  
country. To loosely translate the title,  
it's a Euro pudding, a locale from  
which Xavier comes to realize "you  
get out of it exactly what you put in."  
The film captures the magic of that  
unfettered time with a mixture of hu-  
mor and wistfulness, making it a plea-  
sure to watch for anyone looking  
back or forward to the experience of  
leaving home for the first time. — G.  
Whipp. (R:  
French/Spanish/English/Catalan/  
Danish with English subtitles; lan-  
guage, sexual content.) 1 hour, 56  
minutes. B  
"LEGALLY BLONDE 2: RED, WHITE  
& BLONDE": Bears more than a  
passing resemblance to "School-  
house Rock," those snippets of edu-  
cation set to music featured on '70s  
TV. Elle Woods (Reese Witherspoon)  
has finished law school. After devel-  
oping a passion for animal rights,  
courtesy of Bruiser the Chihuahua,  
she moves to D.C. to stop chemical  
testing on animals. Along the way,  
she learns various surprisingly accu-  
rate lessons, both about bill making  
and Washington corruption, from able  
supporting characters played by Bob  
Newhart and Sally Field. Best suited  
to teenage audiences, but in its way  
as charming as the first film and, like  
"Schoolhouse Rock," rather sweetly  
useful as a civics lesson. Withers-  
poon continues, through some  
alchemy, to make an annoying char-  
acter excharnting. — M. Pols. (PG-13:  
some sex-related material.) 1 hour, 34  
minutes. B-  
"MAN ON THE TRAIN": Two craggy-  
featured Frenchmen, one roamy  
country house with a leaking roof,  
and the prospect of both men trading  
lives with each other. These elements  
would turn a Hollywood studio exec-  
utive's hair white if you were trying to  
pitch him the story. But in Patrice  
Leconte's "Man on the Train," they  
add up to a thoroughly engaging  
character drama. Johnny Hallyday  
plays Milan, the man of the title who  
steps off a train and enters a sleepy  
French village. What does he want? A  
retired schoolteacher named  
Manesquier (Jean Rochefort) is about  
to find out. You can't get enough of  
these two guys playing off each other.  
They are the words and music, the  
heart and soul of the picture. And  
even at the end, when things become  
increasingly hokey and contrived,  
there's something about the spiritual  
link between these men that tran-  
scends everything. — D. Howe. (R:  
French with English subtitles; lan-  
guage and some violence.) 1 hour, 30  
minutes. B+  
"MAROONED IN IRAQ": Although  
this film seems to reference the Bagh-  
dad regime's genocidal air and  
chemical assaults against the Kurdish  
minority following the 1980s Iran-Iraq  
War, Kurdish filmmaker Bahman  
Ghobadi insists that the action takes  
place following the first Gulf War. Em-  
ploying mostly amateur actors, the  
film follows the cockeyed but increas-  
ingly symbolic and moving quest of  
an elderly local singing star, Mirza  
(Shahab Ebrahimi), and his two adul-  
terers running riot on the other side  
of the border, thousands of refugees  
are fleeing east. Along the way, the  
three men encounter ineffectual au-  
thorities, black marketeers, romantic  
brigands, bandits, hordes of war or-  
phans and a few dedicated caretak-  
ers. As the terrain grows less hospi-  
table, the contentious musicians lose  
just about everything and for each,  
that presents a possibility for  
enlightened action that just may  
sanctify personal redemption from the  
jaws of harrowing atrocity. — B.  
Strauss. (NR: Kurdish with English  
subtitles.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. A  
"THE MATRIX RELOADED": A mud-  
ded marathon of special effects that  
leaves you overstimulated and under-  
whelmed. This time around, there are  
more Agent Smiths (many more),  
more sunglasses, a tour of the last  
safe haven for man and even some  
unplugged sex. Along with that  
comes a TV-style cliffhanger and

enough confusion to fuel furious de-  
bate in chat rooms until November,  
when "The Matrix Revolutions," the fi-  
nal installment of the Wachowski  
brothers' trilogy, will be released. The  
movie takes itself too seriously, the al-  
legedly deep philosophical meaning  
feels cobbled together from a fresh-  
man seminar, and in the end, this se-  
quel isn't nearly as engaging or inno-  
vative as its predecessor. — M. Pols.  
(R: sci-fi violence and some sexual-  
ity.) 2 hours, 18 minutes. C+  
"A MIGHTY WIND": It's unlikely  
Christopher Guest will ever make a  
truly bad or boring movie, but with his  
latest, "A Mighty Wind," the bloom  
feels a tad off the rose of his unique  
mockumentary style. "Waiting for Guf-  
fman" and "Best in Show" made us  
snort with laughter. This one, a parody  
of earnest and talentless folk singers  
from the early 1960s meeting for a re-  
union show, is funny, but not quite up  
to snuff. It's formulaic and lacks spon-  
taneity. Also, since when was all folk  
music so awful? Even in "Spinal Tap,"  
those who disliked heavy metal could  
get a charge out of the music. But  
here we get one tedious, insipid song  
after another. Guest hardly owes us a  
historical recounting of the folk era,  
but since he's usually so razor-sharp  
and inclusive, one wonders what  
about talents like Joan Baez, Woody  
Guthrie or Bob Dylan? — M. Pols.  
(PG-13: sex-related humor.) 1 hour, 37  
minutes. C+  
"NOWHERE IN AFRICA": This Oscar-  
winning German film is a Holocaust  
survival story. Based on journalist  
Stefanie Zweig's memoir, this is  
one of the better filmed examinations  
of Europeans in British colonial  
Kenya. The suffering is, in a historical  
sense, negligible. Yet the personal  
impact of the calamity is evoked with  
a jarring completeness. Three very  
lucky people get out of Nazi Germany  
in 1938, several months before things  
go irreversibly bad for Jews. This  
movie finds deep psychological in-  
sights where most just go hunting for  
big game. — B. Strauss. (NR: Ger-  
man with English subtitles; sex, nu-  
dity, language and racist language  
and actions.) 2 hours, 18 minutes. A-  
"ON-LINE": This creepy romantic  
comedy imagines what would hap-  
pen if a group of cybersex devotees  
turn themselves away from their com-  
puters and experimented with face-to-  
face contact. John (Josh Hamilton)  
is a nervous urban recluse who runs an  
erotic Web site with his study room-  
mate and business partner, Moe  
(Harold Perrineau). When not con-  
necting sexually frustrated people,  
John whiles away his hours pining  
over a pretty woman with her own  
Webcam site. Moe talks John into  
making a date with a sarcastic bisex-  
ual siren with whom he has just  
shared a steamy paid fantasy ses-  
sion. And Moe hooks up with the  
mopey, pill-popping Moira. Watching  
"On-Line" is a dispiriting experience  
that leaves you with a nagging "Is  
that all there is?" feeling about sex in  
general. — S. Holden. (R: profanity,  
nudity.) 1 hour, 27 minutes. C-  
"PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN:  
THE CURSE OF THE BLACK  
PEARL": Johnny Depp is the best  
thing about this overblown pirate epic  
inspired by the Disneyland theme  
ride. You've never seen a pirate like  
Depp's Capt. Jack Sparrow. He  
prances, he flirts; he seems like an es-  
capee from "The Rocky Horror Pic-  
ture Show." Keira Knightly (the  
tomboy from "Bend It Like Beckham")  
makes a winning love interest, but  
overall, this Jerry Bruckheimer pro-  
duction is a flashy, soulless bore. Af-  
ter two hours, it becomes a ride one  
desperately wants to get off. — M.  
Pols. (PG-13: action/adventure vio-  
lence.) 2 hours, 23 minutes. C  
"RAISING VICTOR VARGAS": Direc-  
tor Peter Sollett's movie about  
teenagers on the Lower East Side is  
a sweet, sassy delight, potent not just  
with young lust, but with young love.  
Victor Vargas (Victor Rasuk) goes af-  
ter juicy Judy (Judy Marte) the  
hottest girl in the neighborhood, hop-  
ing to prove his manhood. Mean-  
while, his best friend courts Judy's  
best friend, and Judy's younger  
brother courts Victor's bratty younger

sister. The movie flows from the time-  
line of these romances, but it's just as  
much about Victor and his siblings'  
relationship with their grandmother,  
who is raising them alone. Tender,  
evocative and blissfully free of the  
typical Latino gangster stereotypes  
most movies shove in our faces. —  
M. Pols. (R: strong language.) 1 hour,  
28 minutes. A-  
"RESPIRO": This fable brought to ci-  
nematic life was shot entirely on the  
Sicilian island of Lampedusa, amid de-  
caying buildings and along those  
remarkable cliffs and caves. Valeria  
Golino stars as Grazia, a beautiful,  
life-embracing mother of three. She is  
also temperamental, unpredictable  
and under medication. Her fisherman  
husband, Pietro, tries to be patient,  
but gossip is building, and profes-  
sional help is available in Milan. Of  
course, you'd need a team of wran-  
glers to pry Grazia off her island. Ulti-  
mately, Pietro and the townspeople  
are forced to take action. This prompts  
Grazia's son Pasquale to execute a  
fairly daring maneuver of his own. —  
E. Henerson. (PG-13: Italian with En-  
glish subtitles; nudity, mild violence, lan-  
guage.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. B  
"RUGRATS GO WILD": In this latest  
animated adventure, the Rugrats  
fearful Chuckie gets mistaken for the  
"Thornberns'" wild-child, Donnie. A  
knock on the head makes Nigel  
Thornberry think he's one of the Ru-  
grats. And the Rugrats' bossy Angelica  
finds a new role model in the  
Thornberns' bossy Debbie. Ulti-  
mately — surprise! — they are re-  
deemed. It's a far cry from the Ru-  
grats' earlier, more touching films, but  
younger children should enjoy it. —  
N. Churmin. (PG: mild, crude humor.)  
1 hour, 20 minutes. C  
"SINBAD: LEGEND OF THE SEVEN  
SEAS": It now appears that "Shrek"  
was a major fluke for DreamWorks an-  
imation. Last year's "Spirit: Stallion of  
the Cimarron" and now this don't even  
come close. Don't be fooled by all the  
"Shrek" tie-ins; the company knows  
how lame "Sinbad" is. And even  
though the voices carry a lot of star  
power — Brad Pitt, Joseph Fiennes,  
Michelle Pfeiffer — only Catherine  
Zeta-Jones leaves any kind of vocal  
impression. — R. Moore. (PG: adven-

ture action, mild sensuality, brief lan-  
guage.) 1 hour, 26 minutes. C  
"SPELLBOUND": This Academy  
Award-nominated documentary is os-  
tensibly about the National Spelling  
Bee, told through the stories of eight  
kids who made it to the 1999 finals.  
But that makes it sound so dry, and  
this is such a passionate and engag-  
ing movie. You'll find hard for eight  
very distinct and somewhat peculiar chil-  
dren, and at the same time, are mov-  
ingly reminded of all the best things  
about the melting pot and the Ameri-  
can dream. Sharp, clever editing en-  
hances the natural tension of the bee,  
and filmmakers Jeff Blitz and Sean  
Welch know how to use irony while  
remaining good-hearted and true to  
their subjects. — M. Pols. (G) 1 hour,  
37 minutes. A  
"SWIMMING POOL": It's hard to  
make the process of writing interesting  
on film, but director Francois Ozon  
and actress Charlotte Rampling pull it  
off in this graceful and deceptively  
playful exploration of a writer's mind.  
Rampling is a dour Englishwoman  
who heads to her publisher's country  
home to find inspiration for her new  
novel; there she encounters his dis-  
solute daughter. Beyond the person-  
ality clashes is a rich and compelling  
subtext, full of plot twists and a major  
hairpin curve at the end. — Ben Nuck-  
ols. (R: strong sexual content, nudity,  
language, some violence and drug  
use.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. B+  
"TERMINATOR 3: RISE OF THE  
MACHINES": John Connor (Nick  
Stahl) is 22 now, living a lonely life off  
the grid so the mean machines in the  
future can't find him. Instead, they  
send back the TX (Kristanna Loken),  
a beautiful killing machine, to elimi-  
nate the future savior of the world.  
The Terminator (Arnold Schwarzeneg-  
ger) follows, intent on saving Connor  
once again. Boy-bot and girl-bot duke  
it out. What makes this story work is  
the lively action, the steady sense of  
humor (Schwarzenegger has some  
zingy, campy lines) and endearing  
performances from Stahl and Claire  
Danes, playing a love interest who  
would much rather be somewhere  
else. Not as spooky and cool as the  
first film, but a satisfying end to the  
saga that began in 1984. — M. Pols.  
(R: strong sci-fi violence and action,  
language and brief nudity.) 1 hour, 48  
minutes. B  
"TOGETHER": The 13-year-old Xi-  
aochun (real-life violin virtuoso Tang  
Yun) is a natural talent and the pride

of his remote village. But once his fa-  
ther (Liu Peiqi) takes him to Beijing  
for a contest, the boy gradually loses  
his bearings and the will to compete.  
Coaching and tugging from the side-  
lines are his deceptively backward fa-  
ther, a high-class call girl named Lili  
(Chen Hong) and a pair of music  
teachers with very different agendas.  
As it becomes increasingly clear that  
each adult has some design on the  
boy, Xiaochun himself becomes more  
callow. — G. Lovell. (PG: Mandarin  
with English subtitles; some adult ma-  
terial.) 1 hour, 39 minutes. B+  
"28 DAYS LATER": As zombie  
movies go, director Danny Boyle's is  
somewhat unusual in that its scariest  
element may be how plausible its  
plague scenario seems. Animal ac-  
tivist's accidentally unleash test chim-  
panzees infected with a blood-borne  
disease and a yen for violence  
(thanks to being force-fed terrible im-  
ages). Within 28 days, all of Britain  
and perhaps the rest of the world, is  
infected, save for a few plucky sur-  
vivors, including naive Jim (Cillian  
Murphy) and the very pimply Selena  
(Naomie Harris). The second half of  
the film goes too "Lord of the Files"  
on us and loses its spooky edge, but  
the film has a surprisingly wistful  
quality to it and promises to be a hip-  
ster cult classic, like Boyle's  
"Trainspotting." — M. Pols. (R: strong  
violence and gore, language and nu-  
dity.) 1 hour, 48 minutes. B+  
"2 FAST 2 FURIOUS": Whereas the  
original in this street-racing franchise  
seemed to be aiming to evoke the re-  
bellious, romantic spirit of "West Side  
Story," this sequel aims for "Miami  
Vice" and "Starsky & Hutch." It's de-  
liberately cheery. Or so one hopes.  
Where the action has moved to Florida,  
where Brian (Paul Walker) gets roped  
into trying to trap an old city crime boss  
(Cole Hauser). Only a fast car can  
crack this case? Gimme a break.  
There's plenty of adrenaline, but the  
plot is strit through with more holes  
than Christina Aguilera's favorite  
audience outfit. Tyrese, stepping into  
Vin Diesel's shoes, nearly saves the  
day by being funny and gorgeous.  
Love interest Eva Mendes models her  
way through the part. At the dramatic  
climax, she keeps her hands wedged  
into her pockets. Why? Her outfit  
looks better that way. Directed by  
John Singleton, working below his  
standard. — M. Pols. (PG-13: street  
racing, violence, language and some  
sensuality.) 1 hour, 41 minutes. C+

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ENTS

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**THEATRE COMPANY** — "The Rover" by Aphra Behn, July 12 through Aug. 24. Behn was the first English woman to make a living through writing and this play, written in 1677, tackled the concept of women's rights from a Restoration-era viewpoint. The Bay Area's all-female Shakespeare Company presents this sexy story set in a West Indies Carnival, replete with sword fighting, true love and young women behaving badly. July 12 and July 13, 1 p.m.: John Hinkel Park, Southampton Avenue, Berkeley, July 19 and July 20, 1 p.m.: Live Oak Park, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Free. 510-420-0813 or www.woman-swirl.org.

**WOODMINSTER SUMMER MUSICALS** — "Kiss Me Kate" by Cole Porter, July 11 through July 20. The musical follows the antics of a troupe of Shakespearean actors, with the plot from Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew" woven into the backstage lives of the actors. \$17 to \$29 general; \$15 to \$27 children. Friday through Sunday, 8 p.m., July 17, 8 p.m. Woodminster Amphitheater, Joaquin Miller Park, 3300 Joaquin Miller Road, Oakland. 510-531-9597 or www.woodminster.com.

**POPULAR MUSIC**

**ARTS FIRST OAKLAND** — "Join the Circle - Singing for Your Life." July 16 through December 31. A series of six monthly circlesinging workshops teaching the technique where singers take cues from a skilled leader and improvises a song without stopping. July 16, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.: "A circlesinging" workshop led by Rhianon. \$10 to \$20. First Congregational Church, 2501 Harrison St. Oakland. 510-444-8511, ext. 15 or www.arts-firstoakland.org.

**ASHKENAZ** — Steve Lucky and the Rhumba Burns with Ms. Carmen Gett, Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers, July 11, 9:30 p.m. \$17. Lafleur et Basile Band, The Creole Belles, July 12, 9 p.m. Dance lessons at 8 p.m. \$14.

**Torn Rigney and Flambeau**, July 15, 8:30 p.m. \$9.

**Brenda Boykin and Big Soul Country**, July 16, 9 p.m. Dance Lessons at 8 p.m. \$9.

**Earl Zero**, Soul Majestic, Prince Rastan, July 18, 9:30 p.m. \$15.

**Native Elements**, Warsaw Poland Brothers, Shrinkage, July 19, 9:30 p.m. \$10 to \$12.

**1317 San Pablo Avenue**, Berkeley. 510-525-5055 or www.ashkenaz.com.

**BECKETT'S IRISH PUB** — Sterling Dervish, July 11 and July 18. Nicole McRory, July 12, July 16 and July 19. Capo, July 17. Free. Ages 21 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790 or www.beckettsirishpub.com.

**BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH** — Solemnite, KGB, July 11, \$7. Wrig Salad, Naresh, July 12, \$6. Five Year Space Effort, Moziac, Feral

Rose Park, 1300 Rose St., Berkeley Free. 415-285-1717 or www.sfmt.org

**WOMEN'S WILL** — "The Rover" by Aphra Behn, July 12 through Aug. 24. Behn was the first English woman to make a living through writing and this play, written in 1677, tackled the concept of women's rights from a Restoration-era viewpoint. The Bay Area's all-female Shakespeare Company presents this sexy story set in a West Indies Carnival, replete with sword fighting, true love and young women behaving badly. July 12 and July 13, 1 p.m.: John Hinkel Park, Southampton Avenue, Berkeley, July 19 and July 20, 1 p.m.: Live Oak Park, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Free. 510-420-0813 or www.woman-swirl.org.

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**FILM SPLICING** By ROBERT H. WOLFE / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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47 U.S.N. grad	114 Laura's husband in 60's TV		58 Tratoria order
50 Like some lab mice	116 Sp. title		59 Techie, Abbr.
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57 Head off	124 "Steppenwolf" author		64 Foe: Fonda played him in a 1997 film
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61 Skinny, dejected football player?			66 Marine eagle

For any three answers, call from a touch-tone phone: 1-800-285-6656, \$1.20 each minute, or with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

73 P.M. before Macmillan	87 Phone trio	101 Little but?	112 ___ Valley Calif.
75 ___ pro nobis	88 Sea monster	102 Divas have them	113 A long time
76 Immure	89 "Got milk?" request	103 Pilot's directive on takeoff	115 Polar explorer
77 Prefix with state	90 Some old TV's	104 "Do I ___ eat a peach?"	118 French beverage
78 Ground, in a way	91 Like-minded	105 March who hosted "The \$64,000 Question?"	119 March who hosted "The \$64,000 Question?"
79 Old spy grp.	92 Engine part. Abbr.	106 "Doctor Zhivago" part	120 Capt.'s direction
80 Litter unit	93 Cobb and Hardin	107 Run off	121 Have a beef?
81 Platitudes	94 White House nickname		122 Find out
85 Fixes, as a pump			
86 Cave dweller, e.g.			

**freightandsalvage.org**

**GREEK THEATRE** — Elvis Costello, July 19, 8 p.m. \$35 to \$55. Hearst Avenue and Gayley Road, Berkeley. 510-444-TIXS. 415-421-TIXS, www.cc.com or www.ticketmaster.com

**KIMBALLS EAST** — Lou Rawls, July 18, July 19, and July 20 \$40 to \$45. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. 6005 Shellmont St., Emeryville 510-762-BASS or www.kimballs.com

**LA PEÑA CULTURAL CENTER** — Rafael Manriquez, July 11, 8 p.m. \$10. Fito Reynoso's Ritmo y Armonia, July 12, 9:30 p.m. \$10. Cena de Despedida, July 15, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Call for reservations. Qujerma, July 18, 8 p.m. \$10.

**Jose Roberto Hernandez**, July 19, 8:30 p.m. \$10. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapena.org

**MCGRATH'S IRISH PUB** — "Sea Chanteys and Songs of the Waterways." Tuesday, 8 p.m. Free. 1539 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-552-6263 or www.mcgrathspub.com

**924 GILMAN ST.** — Shotwell, Grabbass, Charlestons, Billy Reese Peters, Tiltwheel, July 11. Majority Rule, This Is My First, Del Cielo, Dear Diary I Seem to be Dead.

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## Events

### FROM PAGE 1

Promis, Takaru, July 18.  
 Born/Dead, Conga Fury, Chainsaw,  
 Voetsek, Case of Emergency, Doppel-  
 ganger, July 19.  
 Shows are \$5 and start at 8 p.m., unless  
 otherwise noted. 924 Gilman St.,  
 Berkeley. 510-525-9926.  
**QUINN'S LIGHTHOUSE** — The Star-  
 board Watch featuring Skip Hender-  
 son, Thursday, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
 Free. 51 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland.  
 510-538-2050.  
**STARRY PLOUGH PUB** — Jessica  
 Lurie Ensemble, Crater, Japonize Ele-  
 phants, July 11, \$7.  
 Pocket, 7th Direction, Spindrift, July 12.  
 \$6  
 Starry Irish Music Session with Shay  
 Black, July 13.  
 Smog, Joanna Newsom, July 15, 8:30  
 p.m. \$10.  
 Ian Moore, Steve Turner, Marc Olsen,  
 July 17, \$12.  
 Paul Ceban and the Milwaukeeans,  
 Amelia, July 18, \$8.  
 Rube Waddell, Go Van Gogh, July 19.  
 \$6  
 Starry Irish Music Session with Shay  
 Black, July 20.  
 For ages 21 and over unless otherwise  
 noted. Sunday and Wednesday 8  
 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday,  
 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.  
 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-  
 841-2082  
**THIRD THURSDAY SUMMER**  
**SOUNDS ART STROLL** — July 17:  
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 Square, Oakland City Center, near  
 12th Street BART. 510-628-8490 or  
 www.oaklandcitycenter.com.  
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 chestra, July 11 through July 13.  
 \$24. Sunday Children's Matinee: \$10  
 per adult with one child, \$5 per child.  
 Maye Cavallaro, July 15, \$10.  
 Mitch Marcus Quartet, July 16, \$6 to  
 \$12.  
 Joey DeFrancesco with Lonnie Smith,  
 July 17 through July 20, \$10 to \$22.  
 Shows are Monday through Saturday, 8  
 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and  
 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 510  
 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-  
 238-9200 or www.yoshis.com or  
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 credit report; the credit  
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 corrected the errors in your  
 report that you wrote them  
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 wallet that used to be filled  
 to the brim with credit cards;  
 you've trimmed the number  
 of outstanding debts on your  
 record; you've even written  
 letters that explain any late  
 payments on your record.  
 Now what?

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 purchase of your credit  
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 by the company that  
 developed the credit score in  
 the first place. Go to  
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 Internet, and find the service  
 that provides both your  
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 accurate idea of the interest  
 rates lenders in your area  
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 similar credit scores. This is  
 a bit like finding out what  
 local auto dealers are  
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### OUTDOORS

**BAY AREA RAIL TRAILS** — A network  
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 way corridors.  
**OHLENE GREENWAY** — A 3.75-mile  
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 trail runs under elevated BART tracks  
 from Condon and Key Streets in El  
 Cerrito to Virginia and Acton Streets in  
 Berkeley. 510-215-4382, 510-528-5759  
 or 510-644-6566

**SHEPHERD CANYON TRAIL** — A 3-mile  
 paved trail converted from the Sacra-  
 mento Northern Rail Line. The tree-  
 lined trail is gently sloping and gen-  
 erally follows Shepherd Canyon Road.  
 Suitable for walkers and cyclists. Be-  
 gins in Montclair Village behind Mc-  
 Caulou's Department Store on Medau  
 Place and ends at Paso Robles Drive,  
 Oakland. 510-238-7275.

**BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL** — "Mountain  
 Bike Basics," July 12, 9 a.m. to 11:55  
 a.m. The Bicycle Trails Council of the  
 East Bay teaches mountain bike  
 classes monthly. Learn to ride pre-  
 paredly, responsibly, and skillfully. The  
 ride will include a slice of the Ridge  
 Trail. A short 10-mile group ride usu-  
 ally follows the class. Helmets are re-  
 quired and participants must have bi-  
 cycles in good working condition.  
 Bring water and energy bars. Rain  
 may cancel. Reservations required. At  
 Bort Meadow, Anthony Chabot Re-  
 gional Park, Redwood Road, Oakland.  
 925-258-9118.

"Tour de Fat: Bike and Beer Community  
 Festival," July 26, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
 This festival is sponsored by The  
 Ridge Trail Council and the New Bel-  
 gium Brewing Company, maker of Fat  
 Tire Ale. The day involves a morning  
 ride, a bike rodeo, activities for chil-  
 dren and beer tastings. Morning Ride:  
 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Festival: 11 a.m. to  
 6 p.m. At Civic Center Park, Center  
 and Martin Luther King streets, Berke-

ley. www.newbelgium.com.  
 "Tilden and Wildcat Bike Rides."  
 Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. A vigorous ride  
 through Tilden and Wildcat Canyon  
 Regional Parks. Reservations re-  
 quired. Distance: 15 miles. Elevation  
 gain: 2,000 feet. Difficulty: intermedi-  
 ate. Pace: fast. Meeting place: In front  
 of the North Berkeley BART Station.  
 510-849-9650  
**CRAB COVE VISITOR CENTER** — At  
 Crab Cove, you can see live underwa-  
 ter creatures and go into the San  
 Francisco Bay, from land. You can  
 also travel back in time to Alameda's  
 part. The goal is to increase under-  
 standing of the environmental impor-  
 tance of San Francisco Bay and the  
 ocean ecosystem.

"Evening Concerts at the Cove," July  
 11, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Join Crab  
 Cove for the fifth season of free music  
 at the Visitor Center with the band Ra-  
 dio Noise. Enjoy views of the San  
 Francisco Bay. Food and drinks will  
 be available for purchase.

"Green Power," July 12 and July 13. Ex-  
 plore through games and activities  
 how trees help the planet thrive. For  
 children ages 7 and older. Saturday, 3  
 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 11  
 a.m.

"Pond Exploration," July 12, July 19 and  
 July 20. Learn what makes the urban  
 pond important for wildlife. Saturday  
 and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.; July 12,  
 11 a.m. to noon.

"Micro Journeys," July 19, 3 p.m. to 4  
 p.m. Explore nature from the ground  
 up using hand lenses and bug boxes.  
 "Beach Exploration," July 20, 11 a.m. to  
 noon. Take a guided exploration to  
 find clues to the animals that make  
 the shoreline their home.

Free unless otherwise noted. 1252  
 McKay Ave., Alameda. 510-521-6887  
 or www.ebparks.org.

**DUNSMUIR HOUSE AND GARDENS**  
**HISTORIC ESTATE** — "The Annual  
 Scottish Highland Games at Dun-  
 smuir," July 12-13, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
 Enjoy traditional Celtic music, athletic  
 competitions, Scottish Country and  
 Highland dancing, Living History re-  
 enactments, children's activities, authen-  
 tic Scottish foods, craft vendors and

lots of bagpipes and quilts. One-Day  
 Pass: \$12 general; \$8 seniors and  
 youths age 6 to 13; free children un-  
 der age 13. Two-Day Pass: \$20 gen-  
 eral. "The Scottish Highland Games  
 Ceilidh," July 13, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. An  
 evening of music, dancing, storytelling  
 and haggis eating. In the Garden  
 Pavilion. Admission included with reg-  
 ular games admission.

Dunsmuir House and Gardens Historic  
 Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oak-  
 land. 510-615-5555

**OAKLAND HERITAGE ALLIANCE**  
**23RD ANNUAL WALKING TOURS** —  
 July 12 through Aug. 31. The 2003  
 walks will cover 16 different Oakland  
 neighborhoods. Reservations are not  
 required for tours. Comfortable walk-  
 ing shoes are recommended, as  
 some of the walks are hilly. Bring wa-  
 ter. In case of rain, the tour will be  
 cancelled. Meet 15 minutes before the  
 listed time of each tour to allow for

registration.  
 July 12, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.: "Oak Center  
 Historic District." This West Oakland  
 neighborhood is a 19th-century gar-  
 den suburb of striking Victorian  
 houses with distinguished histories  
 linked to Oakland's early years. The  
 area also has a recent history of so-  
 cial activism, reinventing redevelop-  
 ment and grassroots efforts leading to  
 historic designation for the area. Meet  
 at DeFremercy Park, the corner of 16th  
 and Adeline streets.

July 13, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: "Moun-  
 tain View Cemetery." Take a walk into  
 California's most historic cemetery to  
 meet some of the state's early movers  
 and shakers and the monuments  
 erected to preserve their memory.  
 Charles Crocker, Domingo Ghirardelli  
 and Samuel Merritt are here. This  
 walk is hilly. Meet at the Chapel of the  
 Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave.  
 July 19, 10 a.m. to noon: "Borax Smith."

Visit the site of Arbor Villa  
 Manor "Borax" Smith's 19th-century  
 estate. Smith founded an  
 borax industry 20 miles to-  
 ward the west, established the Key Route,  
 famous and colorful wine  
 The tour visits the Ninth A.  
 trees, the Mary R. Smith  
 and several historic home-  
 ones by Bernard Maybaco  
 Morgan. This walk is hilly,  
 redwood tree, corner of La  
 enue and Home Place. En-  
 block off Park Boulevard  
 \$5 to \$10 per person. Oak-  
 763-9218 or www.oakland  
**OAKLAND ZOO** — \$7 50  
 \$4 50 seniors and children  
 14; free children under age  
 parking fee. Daily, 10 a.m.  
 Knowland Park, 9777 Gold-  
 exit off I580, Oakland. 510-  
 or www.oaklandzoo.org.

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# Friday Auto Plus

cars.com

Friday supplement to The Montclairian, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, July 11, 2003

Section D

response is  
back as culture  
s appetite  
fast cars

BY ROYAL FORD  
THE BOSTON GLOBE

is a taut thread that runs  
the culture of cars in Amer-

in endow real or imagined  
power, empowerment, re-  
independence, and endur-

ped over that thread recently  
called driving a 300-horse-  
Subaru WRX STI on a race-  
in California a couple of  
ago, squirting water to my  
larger to produce cooler air  
re power.

ck Berry came to mind, as  
g about chasing, in a V8  
Maybelline," the girlfriend  
as dumping him in a high-  
chase, in another guy's

rain water blowin' all under  
d.

ew that was doin' my motor

almost 50 years ago that  
g that. His protagonist de-  
on inclement weather to  
cooling waters to help catch  
line at the top of the hill.  
hard to do for more speed  
a button on the dash and

are waiting over new  
such as "2Fast 2Furious"  
emphasis on speed's ap-  
ing drivers. But that's  
new in our culture, in our  
cars, our urge to explore.  
at feeds this urge, besides  
uals and inherent horse-  
Music and, in great part,  
from older ones such as



FORD'S NEW F-150 pickups for 2004 have been completely overhauled to be stronger, with larger, more powerful four-wheel disc brakes, thicker rotors and larger calipers.

## Ford F-150 pickups should retain world's best-seller title

MOTOR MATTERS

With the introduction of the F-150 pickup truck, the words "Built Ford Tough" take on new meaning. The world's best-selling vehicle is far ahead of its competition.

This fact caused Bill Ford to boast, "The F-150s have been the best-selling truck in America for 26 years and the best-selling vehicle for 21 years.

Last year alone, 800,000 F-Series pickups were sold."

The 2004 F-150s were completely overhauled and I, along with hundreds of automotive journalists,

drove these trucks in extremely grueling conditions both on- and off-road in just about every conceivable driving situation. Streams, towing and slaloms were included in the no-holds-barred examination.

I know of no one who found fault. My only concern was trying to keep track of the numerous configurations of the 26 variations of the F-Series.

A close examination of the platform on which these trucks are built reveals fully boxed side rails that are structured to deliver an improved ride and handling. Some

TOM KEANE

Keane on Wheels

sections under the passenger compartment are hydroformed to provide strength and stiffness and a quieter interior.

The position of the shocks are designed to give better control of the axle skipping and skating caused by washboard-type surfaces.

Rack-and-pinion steering is the strongest ever used to enable pre-

cise steering over roads of all types. Even in off-road areas, steering was exceptionally easy on my testers.

The new truck, which is twice as strong as the previous models, now has larger and more powerful four-wheel disc brakes, the rotors are thicker and the calipers are larger.

The suspension is designed to give better braking by resisting body dive.

The models I drove off-road in four-wheel drive had shift-on-the-fly transfer cases.

There are various choices: two doors, four doors, regular cab, su-

per cab and super crew. Each offers the choice of 4x2 or 4x4, and they come with boxes ranging from 5.6 feet, 6.5 feet and 8 feet.

These trucks now have an interesting tailgate assist that opens the tailgate with exceptional ease.

There are two engines: A 4.6-liter 231 horsepower Triton V8 or 5.4-liter 350 horsepower three-valve Triton V8. Both are linked to a four-speed automatic transmission with overdrive.

I didn't find any situation where

See KEANE, Page D2

SPEED, Page D4

## Winter Chevrolet SIZZLIN HOT PRICES

### 2003 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW CAB 4X4

Max Diesel, Allison Transmission, PW, PL, Cruise, CD, Tow Pkg. & More



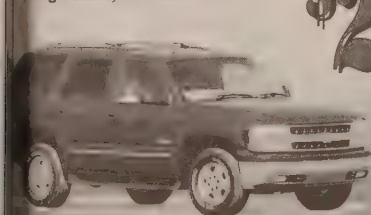
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-\$3,000 Manufacturer's Rebate  
\$27,988 Net Cost

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### 2003 CHEVY SILVERADO EXT

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MANAGERS SPECIAL!!



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**\$23,988 Sale Price**  
-\$4,000 Manufacturer's Rebate  
\$19,988 Net Cost

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### 2003 CHEVY SUBURBAN

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**\$29,988**

Example:

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**\$32,988 Sale Price**  
-\$3,000 Manufacturer's Rebate  
\$29,988 Net Cost

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# Sports car automaker icon, Porsche, builds first SUV

MOTOR MATTERS

To some Porsche purists, the idea of a sport utility vehicle under that brand label may seem sacrilegious, but to others the Cayenne SUV spices up the mundane off-roading scene.

Purists can take heart, though. The new Cayenne is closer in structure and performance to a sports car than to a truck.

On the road it can compete easily with the best of sports sedans, and off-road it can venture into the rugged wilderness and get you back comfortably.

Cayenne, which recently went on sale, arrives in the U.S. after six years of development with Volkswagen AG. VW has created its own off-roader called Touareg on the same platform.

Both the VW Touareg and most of the Cayenne are made in a VW factory in Bratislava, Slovakia. That plant ships the Cayenne, minus a powertrain, to a Porsche factory in Leipzig, Germany, where the engine, transmission and axles are installed.

Porsche engineers have loaded the Cayenne with dozens of technical innovations that give the vehicle sports car-like performance on the highway and rugged durability for off-road exploration. The Cayenne has the biggest V8 engine Porsche has ever put in a vehicle.

Cayenne also has the biggest brakes that Porsche has ever used. In addition, Porsche engineers have designed suspensions and stability control features that ensure Cayenne stays upright even under the most extreme understeer and oversteer conditions.

Like other Porsche engines, those in the Cayenne use VarioCam technology. This optimizes performance and

HERB SHULDINER

Down the Road

reduces fuel consumption and exhaust emissions.

The new naturally aspirated 4.5-liter V8 produces 340-horsepower in the Cayenne S. The Cayenne Turbo engine cranks out 450-horsepower, just under 100-horsepower per liter.

Cayenne S has a top speed of 150 mph and the turbocharged model can reach 165 mph. The 4,949-pound Cayenne S accelerates from 0-62 mph in 7.2 seconds.

An astonishing 5.6 seconds is all that it takes the turbocharged Cayenne, which is 200 pounds heavier, to accelerate from 0-62 mph. This performance is even faster than the Boxster S by 1/10 second.

Such speed requires strong brakes to stop the vehicle fast. The Cayenne has superb brakes. Both Cayenne models have a two-circuit system with separate brake circuits on each axle, standard ABS, and a vacuum brake servo.

The front brakes have six-piston monobloc calipers with 13.78-in. inner-vented discs. The Cayenne Turbo has identical front brakes, except that they are titanium colored.

Rear brakes are four-piston monobloc calipers with 13-inch inner-vented brake discs with pad-wear sensors. The Cayenne Turbo has similar rear brakes, but its calipers are also titanium colored.

Stopping during a test-drive was smooth and effortless. The Cayenne stops more like a passenger car than most similar jumbo-sized SUVs.

A new six-speed Tiptronic S transmission is used in both Cayenne mod-



PORSCHE CAYENNE has technical innovations that give it sports car-like performance on the highway and rugged durability for off-road exploration.

els. The transmission and engine are bolted together to form a single drive unit. Though the transmission is customized for the high torque and power level of the Turbo, Porsche says it is also ideal for the Cayenne S.

A driver can access a wide range of gears by using the lever on the center console or pressing the thumb switches on the steering wheel to shift up or down.

One especially nice feature of the transmission is that the actual gear that's selected is displayed on the instrument panel. Of course, the driver can override automatic mode by shifting the gears manually in much the same way that a Formula One driver does.

When the driver deploys a manual gearshift, it remains activated for at

least 8.0 seconds. However, this is extended when the car is in "overrun," that is, when using engine braking on a downhill, or when downshifting before entering a curve.

What's more, the transmission has a memory that learns the driver's style of piloting the car in automatic mode. The transmission then uses these data to instantly find the right gear for the vehicle, switching to the optimum point for any given driving situation.

While Porsche engineers have naturally given the Cayenne optimum sports car driving features for the highway, they have not forgotten the rugged requirement for off-road travel.

A large percentage of high-strength steel is used to make the Cayenne durable even after it takes a pounding on rocky trails or is driven over fallen

tree trunks.

For some enthusiasts, it may represent the ultimate versatility, combining agility and ruggedness for woods.

It will be a strong competitor to the other European luxury vehicles such as the Land Rover, BMW X5 and Mercedes.

The high-end Cayenne rockets into the price stratosphere in this class of vehicle. Its base price is about \$90,000, but if you add options the price can soar to \$120,000. The base Cayenne is \$56,000.

Regardless of its lofty price, the Cayenne further improves the SUV between car and truck, offering both types of vehicle and style.

## Keane

FROM PAGE D1

I was lacking for power and the torque curve seemed to provide immediate acceleration at any speed.

The interior has an attractive plush atmosphere. The noise level compares to that of a luxury car, and the amenities included are the ones expected in an expensive sedan.

The ride is surprisingly comfortable due to the ease with which the large tires roll over very rough off-road surfaces.

It was also reassuring to know that these trucks are built with all the latest safety features — as I was able to verify personally when shown the results of front-end smashup tests.

Current prices vary from \$18,000 to \$35,000 but prices for the 2004 models aren't yet available.

Frank Davis, the chief program engineer said, "The all-new Ford F-150 delivers a driving experience that has never before been available in a pickup truck."

"The steering is crisp and direct, the ride is plush yet controlled, the braking is assured, and the cabin is quiet."

I wholeheartedly agree with the latter part of his comment, which leads me to this conclusion: Although the competition has made great improvements recently, the new F-Series will allow Ford to continue its reign as the manufacturer of the best-selling vehicle for many more years.

## Real life keeps Cayenne's power on leash

BY ROYAL FORD

THE BOSTON GLOBE

There are times in this business of test driving cars that you get spoiled by an automobile well before it ends up in your driveway.

Such is the case with the Porsche Cayenne Turbo.

You see, once the car has been driven on a professional off-road course, once it's been driven on a racetrack where speed limits are set only by the corners that scream at you like bugs flying toward the windshield, then climbing into the Cayenne to take the kids to a soccer match can be just a bit deflating.

Having driven the Cayenne in the slick mud of that Birmingham, Ala., off-road course and on the same-site sinuous venue of Barber Motorsports Park — with legendary Porsche racer Hurley Haywood bravely in the passenger seat urging me to go ever faster — the country roads between my house and the soccer field had their edges dulled.

I was reminded of a great tale told by Annie Dillard in "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek" in which she recounts a missionary in the American West telling a Native American tribe that God, being all-loving, would accept into heaven not only the religious faithful, but heathens who did not know about Him.

You mean that even if we were unaware of God, we would go to heaven, one of them asked?

Yes, was the missionary's response.

Why, then, did you tell us, the Indian

asked.

You see, that was my disadvantage in my second exposure to the Cayenne Turbo. I knew the truth.

I had felt the full power that propels it from 0-62 miles per hour in 5.6 seconds; had felt the surging torque that will take it to a top speed of 165 miles per hour.

And remember, this is a 5,192-pound SUV, not some low-slung, lightweight sports car (though on the track it behaved like the latter).

There are two versions of the Cayenne, developed jointly with Volkswagen.

Porsche purists have been known to bemoan that the company has gotten into the SUV business, but Tim Mahoney, the Porsche general manager for marketing, said that the company knew that whatever they built "had to be a true Porsche."

They have accomplished exactly that with both vehicles, and done so in a way that surprised even skeptical old me.

I expected the speed and the power and the sports car-like handling. My assumption was that compromises would be made so that, while it had the bearing of an SUV, its true stance would be as a stable high performance car.

What took me by surprise was how great a world-class off-road vehicle this is. It is in a class — pulling away from a pack of watered down SUVs — with the Rovers and the Hummers. And it sits there with great elegance and that high performance edge.

Both versions of the Cayenne come with 32-valve, 4.5-liter, V8 engines. The S en-

gine delivers 340 horsepower while the Turbo pumps out a whopping 450 horsepower and 457 pounds-feet of torque. Great for the racetrack, great for towing the boat (7,716-pound tow capacity).

Also in both models, the engines are mated to a six-speed Tiptronic transmission (first gear very low, sixth gear over-drive) that can be shifted manually using either the stick or paddles on the steering wheel. A six-speed manual will be offered for 2004.

Each model comes with a full-time all-wheel-drive system that sends 62 percent of the torque to the rear wheels under normal driving conditions. This rear-wheel bias is part of Porsche's effort to instill a sporty driving feel in the car, and it works. Even on local country roads at reasonable speeds, I was able to sense a gratifying bit of oversteer when I got into the gas pedal.

That's a good feeling in a powerful car. On the other hand, the car's stability control system is capable of sending all power front or rear, as needed, and can also distribute it to individual wheels.

An air suspension system (self-leveling or manual) varies the Cayenne's ground clearance from nearly 11 inches for off-roading to just over 6 inches (for loading).

Being true off-roaders, Cayennes come with low-range and locking differentials.

Given its weight and potential for high speed, the Cayenne had to come with a massive brake setup. Up front there are 13.5-inch discs with six-piston calipers. The rear has 13-inches with four-piston calipers.

In both road and track testing I found them

to be show-stoppers — smooth and swift in their mission.

The interior is simply elegant, with touches of wood and brushed-aluminum thick leathers, and a hooded dashboard that remind you that you are in a Porsche. And yes, the key is on the left of the steering wheel.

Porsche developed the Cayenne for a basic business reason: The Cayenne, which sold about 23,000 units in 2002, needs to sell more cars, to give Porsche the order to stay independent. The Cayenne cars next year with the Cayenne's doubling.

It may seem ambitious, but Porsche found that 40 percent of the people who already own a Porsche SUV in their yard. Bring them along with those who want to own a Porsche, but whose families are a two-seater, and even at prices from the mid-\$50,000 to \$90,000, it will have no trouble selling all that it builds.

The problem is, unless the Cayenne can ride these cars on a pro-circuit, they likely will never get what the Cayenne can do. Nice touch: The electronic door handle recognizes what you are doing and unlocks on its own.

Annoyance: Just over 11 miles per gallon in several days of testing. I pose if you can plow down 900,000 car, fuel economy isn't much of a

## 2004 FORD F-150

Vehicle Type	Two- and four-door
	pickups w/two-wheel
	and four-wheel drive
Suggested Retail	Not yet available
Engine Type	5.4-liter, three-valve V8
	Triton and 4.6-liter V8 Triton
Horsepower	350 at 5,000 rpm and 231
	at 4,750 rpm
Torque	365 at 3,750 rpm and 293
	at 3,500 rpm
Transmission	Four-speed automatic
Maximum Tow Rating	8,300 pounds
Maximum Payload	2,000 pounds

## Cars and movies

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

If Aston Martin can do it with James Bond (Pierce Brosnan), why can't Jeep do it with Lara Croft (Angelina Jolie)? Use the movies to promote a vehicle.

Jeep brings out a limited-edition Wrangler Rubicon Tomb Raider model next month to coincide with the release of the new film "Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life."

"This is more than just a product placement," insisted Jeff Bell, vice president of Jeep.

Sure, and next week Katie Couric will have an exclusive interview with the Wrangler.

"We've had some movie studios contact us to say, 'Give us some money, and we'll put your car in a movie,'" Chris Theodore, vice president of advance product creation at Ford, said of the GT 500-horsepower, two-seat supercar that goes on sale next spring.

"But we're hoping for a role reversal with the GT so that they give us some money, and we allow the car to be in a movie," Theodore said.

Chances? Slim and none.

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# 4000 pickups put 'truck' in Mazda's B-Series lineup

**MOTOR MATTERS**

term "small pickup" can be misleading. This is especially true when talking about Mazda's 2003 B4000 pickup.

It's powerful in a lineup also including the B2300 and B3000. The B4000 drives home the macho image Mazda hoped to achieve by dubbing its B-Series line "Mazda Truck."

Under the hood sits a DOHC V-6 engine with top-of-class torque. It sends the pickup with 207 horsepower at 5,250 rpm and 238 pounds-foot of torque at 4,000 rpm.

Adding to the 4.0-liter is a standard five-speed manual transmission or optional automatic transmission. Automatic has the distinction of being the only five-speed offered in the compact-pickup class.

The 4.0-liter's big torque translates to a 5,740-pound towing capacity, enough to easily pull a whopper trailer to recreational heaven.

For trailing convenience is a standard Class III trailer hitch.

Adding the possibility of getting the truck via muddy trails, and peace of mind at the boat ramp, the test-truck boasts four-wheel drive and a 7.4-inch clearance.

On the B2300 and B3000 models, the pickup is enhanced with a standard differential.

MSRP starts at \$21,410 for the B2300 and \$20,595 for the B3000.

But the pickup is not only big on

**TIM SPELL**  
Truck Talk

power and traction, but is also enhanced with options, giving it a formidable appearance.

It has a Cab Plus four-door cab configuration, featuring rear-hinged back doors to give it rear-compartment access advantage over the Cab Plus two-door extended-cab model.

Regular cabs are limited to B2300 and B3000 models.

The test-pickup pushes the needle of the head-turning meter to a high level. It's painted in Platinum Frost Metallic, fitted with a pair of silver (or black) colored tube side steps, and rolls on a set of hefty BF Goodrich All-Terrain T/A tires with raised white letters.

Also available is a Dual Sport model that lends 2WDs a bit of 4x4 character and off-road prowess without a weightier body or price tag.

These pickups — named after a motorcycle term emphasizing versatility to handle on- and off-road conditions — have 15-inch alloy wheels and a suspension raised to a 4x4's clearance.

Dual Sport models also are distinguished by body-colored bumpers, grille, and wheel-arch moldings. Like the SE 4x4 models, Dual Sport pickups gain the flair and function of fog lamps.

Base 4x4s are fitted with 15-inch alloy wheels and P225/75R-15 all-



MAZDA offers powerful pickup with B4000, a Cab Plus four with rear-hinged back doors.

terrain tires, and uplevel SE models ride on beefier 16-inch alloy wheels and P245/75R-16 all-terrain tires.

The test-truck gets an extra injection of cool with an Off-Road Package.

This package enhances appearance with 31x10.5R-15 tires and "tear-drop" alloy wheels, monochromatic paint (Platinum Frost Metallic is the only offering), tube side steps and bed-rail caps.

Interior upgrades also come with the Off-Road Package: bucket seats with center console, carpet floor mats, AM/FM/CD/MP3 audio system, auto-dimming mirror, compass and outside temperature gauge.

Standard seating is a 60/40-split bench. Fold-down rear jump seats are standard on all Cab Plus two- and four-door models.

Base models are upholstered in vinyl and cloth covering is standard on all other models.

No matter which "Truck" is chosen — even the B2300 and B3000 — the B-Series offers an impressive list of standard features: four-wheel disc brakes with ABS, tachometer, sliding rear window, solar-controlled tinted glass, anti-theft immobilizer and tire lock.

Air conditioning is standard on all but base 4x2 models.

While the B-Series lineup hasn't had major changes for some time, freshenings are made for 2003. In-

terior upgrades for all models include an in-dash ashtray, driver's vanity mirror and ISOFIX seat anchors.

ISOFIX is a standardized method of installing a child seat without using a seatbelt.

Of course, a key-operated passenger-side airbag deactivation switch is standard. Mazda was the first import-pickup manufacturer to implement this system.

## Car incentives seem to be losing their luster

**MOTOR MATTERS**

plant numbers in the Detroit area caught the eye of my 11-year-old son who rarely looks at the car.

One — in a large font — how many major car companies are offering incentives.

Whopping \$3,800 and some for General Motors, the incentive, captured my son's attention.

"Mom," he remarked, "Look how you can get off on a car."

He explained to him the shell game going on. The Detroit car companies have been raising prices just as they have been raising in-

**MICHELLE KREBS**  
She's Freewheeling

a longer powertrain warranty than its competitors.

But maybe it is time to be even more imaginative. Somehow savings from cash rebates and low- or no-interest loans seem to get lost in the shuffle.

I recall when I no longer had to pay for day care, a hefty sum each week, I thought I'd be flush.

Instead, I barely noticed a change in my household budget. Extra money

just evaporates into the general fund.

So maybe the car companies ought to offer something else that would have meaning to consumers.

My friend, the mother of three children with hardy appetites, said she'd appreciate gift certificates to her favorite supermarket. My favorite spill is frequent flier miles.

Clearly, low- and no-interest financing and hefty cash rebates have lost their luster. But no one is willing to blink first.

Carmakers worry the spigot of sales will completely shut off any trickle that exists. And no one is willing to forgo incentives for pricing that

is real.

Current incentives undoubtedly will continue and may even become bigger, experts say, because the economy is weaker than anticipated and inventories of unsold vehicles are building up as the current model year nears an end and the new models begin arriving in showrooms.

GM executives have publicly stated they intend to remain aggressive on the incentive front. GM is the engine behind the latest incentives as it attempts to gain market share.

Ford and Chrysler have been forced to match GM's incentives. Just wish someone would think outside of the box.

incentives are astronomically above the average incentive industry is running above \$2,500, \$3,000 more than the same year ago, according to Auto New Jersey auto sales analy-

stics, in fact, have not dipped below a vehicle since last December and only in two months but did they ever surpass the mark, noted Auto Data.

Plus automakers lead the way in highest incentives, averaging \$3,300 per vehicle. As for Honda and Toyota, with higher than a year ago, are averaging hundreds, not thousands, of dollars.

The high incentives don't appear to be doing Detroit automakers good. It seems the higher the incentives, the slower the sales as they lose sales and margins to the imports.

Wonders, perhaps, if it is time to change. Indeed, GM has been offering a 24-hour test drive, expires at the end of July — executives hint it may be extended.

Chrysler offers 72-month loans at 0 percent, and allows current owners to get a new vehicle six months before their leases expire.

In celebration of its centennial, in honor of Henry Ford's \$5-a-day offered a \$5-a-day lease on its models. Chrysler provides

## Chrysler takes a hands-off phone approach

**BY JIM MATEJA**  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

GO — Chrysler Group says it will measure if it can install Uconnect's free, voice-activated communication in most of its 2004 model year cars as well as retrofit the system on all its 1994 and newer model

vehicles. A dealer-installed option is available in every Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep vehicle except the Dodge Chrysler Sebring convertible andangler, a trio in which, by their nature, voice-activation is in to ask.

Uconnect becomes a featured option in the Chrysler Pacifica will range from \$299 dealer to \$275 factory installed, plus \$75 labor.

Uconnect will respond to voice commands in English, Spanish and French, and German, the language of the parent DaimlerChrysler.

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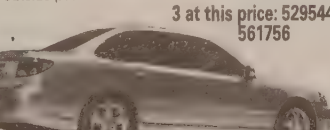


1 at this price: 826437

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Saturn Customer Choice Allowance  
(in lieu of interest rate program)  
-\$2,000  
**Net Cost to you \$15,770**

### 2003 Saturn L200

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3 at this price: 529544, 529662, 561756

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# General Motors offers crash course on safety systems

**BY JIM MATEJA**  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

MILFORD, Mich. — The engineer riding shotgun gave clear, specific, no-doubt-about-it instructions as to what she expected once we turned onto the track at General Motors Proving Grounds here.

"Accelerate to 55 mph, activate the cruise control, then head directly for the car ahead of us that will be traveling at 45 mph," she said.

Picked the wrong day to have three Cokes before deciding to take a drive. But we did as told.

The experiment in planned obsolescence was to test the adaptive cruise control that will be standard in the 2004 Cadillac XLR retractable hardtop roadster when it comes out late this summer.

It will be the first GM car to offer a system now available on the Mercedes-Benz S-Class sedan and SL roadster.

Adaptive cruise control (ACC) is a technical name for a system that makes a car idiot-proof — or at least makes up for error by the idiot behind the wheel.

With ACC, if you approach a vehicle going slower than yours, sensors spring into action to apply the brakes or ease back on the throttle, or both, to slow you down.

## Speed

FROM PAGE D1

"The Italian Job," (now playing as a remake), "The French Connection" and "Bullitt," to new films such as "Gone in 60 Seconds," "The Fast & the Furious," and the entire space of car-featuring James Bond flicks.

This is a story of American steel dreams in a new blast furnace of imported power and global economy, molten as we hold onto a past that flashes in memory and hope.

Greg Brown, the folk singer, describes our fleeting yet enduring glimpses of past and present in his song, "Sleeper:

"You move through my dreams

"Like a trout moves through a pool."

Just as film and music have crossed all international boundaries, so has the love affair with high-powered cars. Brown's lyrics could refer to the retro-glint appeal of a '57 T-Bird or the flash-silver, nitrous-fueled vision of a 2004 Mitsubishi Evolution VII.

It is all part of our evolving automotive culture and reflects the American need to tinker. Kevin Smith, editor in chief of Motor Trend magazine, recently called our habit "turning automobiles of frankly humble origins into flagrantly fast lust objects."

Even as Subaru produces a 300-horsepower car, even as Nissan gives us the Sentra SE-R Spec V; Mazda offers the Speed Protege, Mitsubishi the Lancer Evolution, Audi a range of cars that, already fast, can be "chipped out" for more horsepower, and Volkswagen offers 400-horsepower, the need (or advertising push) for speed intensifies.

"Look over the shoulder of anyone playing a video racing game and you'll likely see some Lancer Evo or Impreza WRX slipping, sliding, and soaring to glory," writes Motor Trend's Smith.

And don't think American manufacturers — and staid foreign builders — aren't noticing.

Volvo has a 300-horsepower car, the S80 R; Chevrolet is bringing back power in a new "SS lineup;" Chrysler will offer the dome-shaped, powerfully combustible cylinder chamber called the Hemi. Ford a new Mustang and a Ford 500. Imports may be the new muscle cars, but American builders are fighting to reenter that race.

Why the resurgence? Why the possibility? Consider, again, American car culture, in movies and song.

Steve McQueen drove a 1968 Mustang GT 390 in "Bullitt," in a chase through and out of San Francisco in perhaps the best such scene ever filmed. That was a chase.

For blind worship of the road, we had "The Blues Brothers" — Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi pronouncing themselves fully equipped with cigarettes, beer, sunglasses, and the escapist promise of a 1974 Dodge Monaco 440 cop car, ready to "Hit it!"

Paul Le Mat drove a pulsing 1932 Ford five-window coupe as a symbol of rebellion in the movie "American Graffiti," and it stood in muscular contrast to the pulseless Citroen 2-CV driven by college-bound Richard Dreyfuss. Le Mat's character, it is noted in a postscript at movie's end, later died in a car wreck. Dreyfuss went to college.

But let's not forget that the rebel, the hot car, and defiance have often melded in our culture.

Robert Mitchum, as Luke Doolin in "Thunder Road," may have been outrunning the feds in his hot Ford, but we cheered his efforts to get that liquor to a thirsty public. And let's not forget that NASCAR fore-runners such as Junior Johnson were purported to have traveled those same back roads.

"Junior Johnson runnin' through the hills of Caroline," sings Bruce Springsteen.

I look back, I look forward, and while doing so, I trip over that thread again.

Here is Kowalski driving that 1970 Challenger R/T Hemi in "Vanishing Point;" Grace Kelly driving her 1954 Sunbeam Talbot Alpine Roadster in "It Takes a Thief;" Stephen King offering up "Christine," the malevolent 1958 Plymouth Fury; Michael Parks as Jim Bronson riding his dead-by-suicide buddy's 1968/69 Harley Davidson Sportster across America in search of vindication; Thelma and Louise heading for the edge (and over) of the Grand Canyon in a green '66 T-Bird.

Yet the thread holds strong. And if you're not looking down, you'll stumble over it, as I did. Only this time, the trip wire may be this: Toyota is entering NASCAR — by truck, with cars to follow.

Power, empowerment, rebellion, and independence are, after all, American exports — now coming home.

A head-up display along the lower windshield shows a pair of car icons. Using a button on the steering wheel, you set the system to start slowing the XLR when left with a one- or two-second reaction time distance between you and the car ahead.

We set the XLR at two seconds, which allowed enough space between for another vehicle to fit, providing it didn't carry a ladder.

We took the XLR to 55 mph, switched on cruise and headed for the bumper ahead. The temptation to apply the brakes was strong, but the demand from the engineer to leave foot planted on the carpet ensured ACC would be given a fair test.

ACC did as advertised.

A warning beep sounded, and the ACC sensors gently applied the brakes to slow our car as it approached too close to the one ahead.

But then that car ahead moved into the passing lane and the XLR's cruise control began to accelerate back up to 55 mph — until the car ahead returned to our lane and the ACC again took over to slow the XLR.

Nice system, though one gripe; it only works when cruise control is engaged.

After the XLR, we slipped into a Buick LeSabre with a Crash Avoidance system that's undergoing field testing.

The LeSabre system is an enhanced version of ACC. If the lane ahead is clear, the system will maintain the set speed, just

like conventional cruise control.

When a vehicle is detected ahead, the system will adjust your speed by applying limited braking or acceleration to maintain a safe distance.

But this system detects vehicles or objects farther down the road to give more notice of possible trouble. Like ACC, it provides visual and audible warnings and slows you down, but requires the driver to take over braking or make a panic maneuver to avoid impact with a slower vehicle ahead.

One thing the LeSabre crash avoidance system won't do is apply braking and/or throttle control when the car ahead has stopped.

If that car slows down, the system slows you, too, but if you round a corner and find the vehicle dead in its tracks, you are given warning of an object in your path and are on your own to avoid a collision. There's no braking/throttle control for stationary objects.

Having survived ACC without incident, the GM engineers thought a test of Crash Avoidance was in order.

Back to the same track. This time the car ahead is stationary, as if stalled. You are ordered to accelerate to 40 mph and head for the car's rear bumper.

As with the XLR, a head-up display along the LeSabre's lower windshield goes to work. A small icon depicting a car shows

up on the screen as you approach the object ahead.

The closer you get, the bigger the icon gets, big enough, in fact, so you don't have to look down at the lower glass to see it.

The faster you go and the nearer the parked car, the quicker the icon grows. The icon starts blinking to warn of potential impact unless you brake or swerve.

The first test at 40 mph required swerving to avoid the car, the second test at 40 mph required braking. At 40 mph, which seems plenty fast when you know a car is

parked ahead of you, there was

and space to both swerve and

Would there be enough to

n't try to find the answer, but

the faster you are going, the

icon blinks and the warning a

But, also keep in mind that

doesn't stop your vehicle. The

ance is up to you.

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# Buick rolls past Mercedes in durability ratings

**BY DANNY HAKIM**  
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

ETROIT — Mercedes-Benz has fallen to its sister brand Chrysler in a closely fought report on vehicle dependability, General Motors has surged. And these vehicles continue, overall, to hold the best record, issued on Tuesday by J.D. Power & Associates, focuses on problems arising over three years of ownership. Its findings are important because most consumers say a vehicle's reputation for durability is their top consideration in making a purchase.

Lexus, Toyota's luxury brand, had the best reported problems in the report, based on responses from 55,000 owners of 2000 model vehicles. Owners asked about 147 potential problems. The most common complaint overall was noise, followed by noisy brakes and an tire wear.

According to the report, Lexus owners had 163 problems per 100 vehicles, the industry average of 273. Infiniti, the luxury brand, came in second with 179 problems. GM's Buick brand was third, with 179 problems.

The most surprising results involved the Chrysler Corp. Since Daimler-Benz merged with Chrysler in 1998, auto experts have asked whether the manufacturer of Mercedes could bring respectability to the Chrysler American icon.

In the J.D. Power report, both the Chrysler and Dodge brands outperformed Mercedes-Benz, which in turn only narrowly edged out Chrysler's Jeep brand. Mercedes had 318 problems per 100 vehicles, as 295 for all the Chrysler Group brands.

While automakers have closed ranks in quality — which spans the first three years of a vehicle's life — the report says that there are still wide gaps in performance over longer periods. Automakers even small gains in the J.D. Power report, knowing that it takes years of results — either good or bad — to

broadly change the perceptions of buyers. And customers will pay more for both new and used cars with fewer problems.

"Some vehicles age gracefully," said Joe Ivers, a partner at J.D. Power, "and others get disproportionate problems."

Most of GM's major brands scored above the industry average, including Cadillac, Chevrolet, Saturn and GMC. Pontiac, with 293 problems per 100 vehicles, was below average. So was Oldsmobile, which is being discontinued.

"The world turned upside down," said David Healy, an analyst at Burnham Securities, describing both Mercedes' fall and GM's rise.

According to J.D. Power, Japanese automakers continue to lead in durability, with 228 problems per 100 cars for the average Japanese brand, 282 for the average Big Three brand, 331 for European brands and 406 for Korean brands.

Not all European automakers fared poorly. Porsche was among the industry's best, and both BMW and Ford's Jaguar division were above average, as was GM's Saab division.

But Volkswagen and its Audi division continued to have quality problems — Volkswagen was among the five worst brands in the industry, among 37 ranked. Ford's Volvo and Land Rover divisions also performed below average, with Land Rover ranking behind the beleaguered Daewoo brand and better only than Kia, made by the Korean automaker Hyundai.

According to the study, Kia makes the two least durable vehicles: the Sportage sport utility and the Sephia sedan.

At Mercedes-Benz, the report said, the most troublesome vehicles were the M-Class sport utility and the E-Class sedan, which starts just under \$50,000 and can cost considerably more.

The E-Class showed the highest rate of deterioration over three years among Mercedes vehicles, with 215 percent more problems after three years than owners reported after three months. The most common reported problems were excessive

brake dust, which can be a result of worn brake pads; malfunctioning side windows and uneven tire wear.

Donna Boland, a spokeswoman for Mercedes, dismissed the comparison to Chrysler's performance. "If we're coming in below industry average, we're troubled," she said. "But this is one measurement, and our feeling is that quality is a more holistic thing that takes into account how owners feel at the end of the ownership experience. Do they stay with the brand or walk away?"

Boland said that Mercedes has one of the highest customer loyalty rates in the industry and added that many of the problems identified by owners have already been fixed. Analysts said it would take a prolonged slide in results to damage Mercedes sales or image.

Ronald A. Tadross, auto analyst at Banc of America Securities, said warranty costs were a more pertinent indicator of vehicle dependability than survey data.

"I would argue it's hard to derive a conclusion from a survey, because you don't know what the consumer is thinking," he said. "It begs the question: What is vehicle dependability? Is it warranty costs or the nuances of wind noise?"

In the past, J.D. Power surveyed owners after four and five years of driving a vehicle. The firm switched to examining vehicles after three years so that automakers — its clients — could better use the information as they develop future models. The typical car or truck is on the road five years, but plans for a major redesign are typically under way three years into a vehicle's life.

# Porsche tops J.D. Power latest durability survey

**BY AUGUST COLE**  
CBS MARKETWATCH

SAN FRANCISCO — As if you needed another reason to want a Porsche.

The German automaker's North American unit had the most reliable model, according to a J.D. Power survey of 55,000 automobile owners.

Toyota Motor Sales again led the latest J.D. Power overall durability report among large automakers as top makers Lexus and Infiniti were joined by Buick when individual nameplates were considered.

Among the largest automakers that have more than one brand under their roof, General Motors and Ford Motor had three top vehicles while Honda had one. Toyota had nine.

The report comes as the domestic automakers battle for sales and their share of the key U.S. market with heavy discounts while pitching quality improvements. Reliability is one of the most important factors to consumers, industry watchers say. According to J.D. Power, 52 percent of buyers said long-term durability was one of the most important ways decisions are made.

Among the specific luxury lines, Acura, BMW, Cadillac, Jaguar, Lexus, Porsche and Saab had fewer than the industry average number of problems while Mercedes-Benz, Land Rover, Audi and Volvo had more.

"A brand's reputation is really critical," said Brian Walters, senior director of prod-

uct research at J.D. Power.

By company, the highest overall quality title went to Porsche with 193 problems per 100 vehicles. In Porsche's case, he said one reason why the brand did so well is that owners typically drive their Porsches less because it's not a primary vehicle.

Median mileage is 36,000 for most vehicles after three years while it's about 16,000 for a Porsche.

Toyota, which includes Lexus, had 196 problems per 100 vehicles and Honda in the No. 3 spot had 215. Among the U.S. automakers, General Motors had 264, still above the industry average of 273. That's something GM is working hard at to impress upon consumers.

"Brand reputations are a difficult thing to turn around," said Walters.

Ford Motor, in the middle of its self-described product-led recovery, overall had more problems than the industry average at 287, and DaimlerChrysler had 311.

By brand, Toyota's Lexus led with 163 problems; Infiniti took the No. 2 spot at 174 and Buick had 179 in No. 3. Domestic brands Cadillac, Lincoln, Mercury, GMC, Chevrolet and Saturn were better than the industry average of 273.

Ford brand vehicles were at 295 but the No. 2 automaker took the full-size pickup title just as the model is about to

See PORSCHE, Page D6

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"On the inside you want the interior to reflect the different modes through during the day,"

Drivers now have the power to change their vehicles from the office commuter to the garden-sun-

Fluharty added, "People are sensitive to the quality and style of consumer products these days. We are so aware of product design because

The new design and flexibility ideas are popping up in many 2004 vehicles. For instance, the Toyota Sienna features its "Split and Stow 3rd Row" seat. The seats not only fold in half by the pull of a strap but they can also be stowed in the floor of the vehicle. That creates enough room for hauling everything from

The 2004 Chevy Malibu features a fold-down front seat that can serve

The F150 features the rail storage system developed by Johnson Controls. The system allows drivers or passengers to configure or snap on new bins, small tool kits or first aid kits. At the end of the rail is a hook for the passengers in the

Walters agreed, noting Toyota's design strength and high standards for suppliers. But Mercedes' issues

To be sure, some cars can have biases or biases that can color the said Fitch Ratings auto and Struve. "There's a perception that favors luxury cars."

[illegible]



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'98 Mercedes S320 Sedan, Loaded, Must See #142485	\$28,935	\$21,999
'01 BMW 325it Wagon, Sport Pkg, 22k, Must See #142485	\$29,955	\$25,999
'03 Chrysler 300M, Loaded, Moonroof, Low Miles #568050	\$29,885	\$24,999
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# Rare Dodge R/T Charger restored to perfection

MOTOR MATTERS

In 1969, Dodge built a total of 18,544 R/T Chargers with a 440 Magnum V8 engine. Only 3,605 left the factory equipped with a four-speed, floor-shift manual transmission.

Most of these rust-prone muscular cars were either run to death or wrecked. As of two years ago, the Dodge Charger Registry had listed only 40 remaining R/T Chargers with the 440-cubic-inch V8 engine mated to a four-speed manual transmission.

One of these special Dodges that had survived 17 years was parked at the side of a southwestern Virginia road with a "for sale" sign in the window. Though in sad shape, it was still desirable because of its relative rarity.

A resident of that region assumed the formidable task of bringing the Dodge back to life. Over the course of six years the Dodge was resuscitated with the help of a lot of new old-stock parts.

The high-performance Magnum V8 engine develops 375 horsepower and 480 pounds-foot of torque. A delightful growl tumbles out of the engine through factory high-performance manifolds with 2.5-inch head pipes into dual Hemi mufflers and out 2.25-inch tailpipes with chrome-plated rectangular tips.

With the outstanding restoration

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Classic Classics

complete, the car made the rounds of the national car shows, scooping up "Best of Show" and "First Place" awards along the way.

In 1996 the car was sold, but two years later it was back on the market.

That was about the time that lifelong Mopar fanatic Tony Gabriel was searching for a 1968, 1969 or 1970 muscle car. "I particularly wanted a manual four-speed transmission," he said.

He found the Dodge advertised on the Internet. Gabriel was impressed and in the summer of 1998 told the owner he was coming to see the car and if it was as advertised, he would buy it.

Gabriel went to see what he could see. When he first saw the red Dodge with a black vinyl roof, Gabriel thought "bingo!"

He gave it a careful once-over and took it for a drive around the block before buying the pristine car. The 3,646-pound car made the trip home on a trailer.

Gabriel learned that his Dodge carried a base price in 1969 of \$3,575. Added to that figure was \$765.16 in extra-cost options in-



ONE OF ONLY 40 remaining Dodge R/T Chargers, this 1969 fully restored model features a Magnum V8 engine and four-speed shift manual transmission.

cluding: console, track pack, light group, tinted glass, AM/FM radio, power steering, black vinyl roof, wheel trim rings, rear seat speaker, tachometer with clock, black bubble bee stripe, F70x14-inch red-line tires, left remote-control mirror, hood-mounted turn signals, and chrome stamped road wheels.

With a \$66 destination charge, the original owner faced a sticker price of \$4,406.16. He also discovered that his car was one of the earlier 1969 models, having been built Oct. 22, 1968, at Chrysler's Ham-

tramck plant in Michigan.

Gabriel reports that the car handles well thanks to a heavy-duty suspension. Braking, however, is left to drum brakes at all four corners.

Seated behind the three-spoke steering wheel, the turn signal warning lights embedded in the engine hood indentations are visible.

The 150-mph speedometer bears testament to the power of the engine. Gabriel knows his car is fast but has doubts that it can achieve that top speed.

"It has giddy-up-and-go gears," he said. It's quick off the line but at a price on top speed.

With a nod to the bias-ply Firestone Super Sports Wide Oval tires, which appear incredibly narrow by today's standards, Gabriel said, "I can definitely boil those tires."

Of course, he does his best to go easy on the throttle to avoid smoking the rear tires.

"You can put your foot in it and get a great sound," he concedes, "but it's going to cost you."

Gabriel said that because the

engine was rebuilt with valve seats there is no leaded gas or lead. He burns the highest available with an occasional tane booster.

As for gas-mileage, the muscle car, with a four-barrel carburetor, "That's irrelevant."

If you have a vehicle to "Classic Classics" to Motor Matters, 4635 S. Wilmington, DE 19808, ing its merits.

## Step-by-step instructions for draining and flushing cooling system

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

**Q** In a recent column you suggested servicing your cooling system every two or three years and wrote about the different types of fluids.

Flushing also was mentioned.

Could you explain all this in more detail? Is this something the average person can do, or must the job be done by a professional?

Can I simply drain and refill the radiator with new coolant?

**Yolanda Sims, Livermore, Calif.**

**A** I'm glad you asked. There's always so much more that could be said about every topic we cover.

Cooling system fluid service is,

**BRAD BERGHOLDT**  
Auto QnA

In most cases, within the realm of the vehicle owner, and doing so regularly is more important than ever with our aluminum-component engines and cooling systems.

Before you start, check your owner's manual for the cooling system capacity, coolant type and any special instructions related to cooling system (air) bleeding and filling.

If your car requires a complex bleeding-filling procedure or you are unsure of the necessary methods, it's best to save the job for a pro.

Another concern is properly disposing of the used fluid.

To drain and flush a typical cooling system, you'll need three to five sturdy screw-top gallon containers and an available antifreeze collection site.

Check for a municipal antifreeze-recycling program by calling 1-800-CLEANUP or going on the Web to [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org). If one is not available, see if your local auto-parts store or repair shop is willing to accept your fluid (usually for a fee, as they are charged for fluid disposal).

Still in the game? Let's start with a cold engine and no young children or pets present.

1. Place a 2-gallon tub or bucket beneath the radiator.

2. Remove the radiator cap.

3. Locate and open the radiator drain valve. If there isn't one, it will be necessary to separate the lower radiator hose.

4. After the radiator drains fully, close the drain valve and pour the captured fluid into appropriately labeled containers.

Don't let fluid drain onto the ground or into a storm drain.

5. Add flush solution, refill the system with water and reinstall the cap.

6. Run the engine, with the heater set to high-hot, for about 15 to 20 minutes.

7. Allow the engine to cool.

8. Remove the cap, drain the system, refill with water, reinstall the

cap, run the engine again for 15 to 20 minutes.

9. Cool and drain, capturing and bottling all fluid.

10. Refill the radiator and coolant recovery bottle with a 50 percent coolant mix (all the coolant first, water second) following any specified bleeding-filling procedures.

11. Reinstall the radiator cap and run the engine for 15 to 20 minutes (heater on high-hot), shut off, allow the engine to cool.

12. Recheck the radiator level, refilling as necessary, and check again once more in a few days.

The above procedures involve quite a bit of work but are necessary to ensure a shipshape cooling system.

Simply draining the system and refilling it with new coolant is easier, but you'll only be about half the fluid, and the system of acidity and

Cooling system service and money well spent, at component corrosion electrolysis damage can't problem down the road.

Regular inspection, hoses and fan operation important to prevent and avert costly engine

Brad Bergholdt teaches automotive technology at Everley College in San Jose. He can be reached at [bergholdt@everley.edu](mailto:bergholdt@everley.edu) or by phone at 408-281-1111. He cannot make personal

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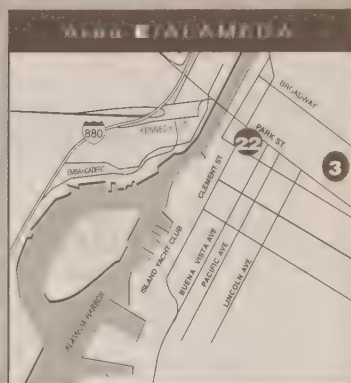
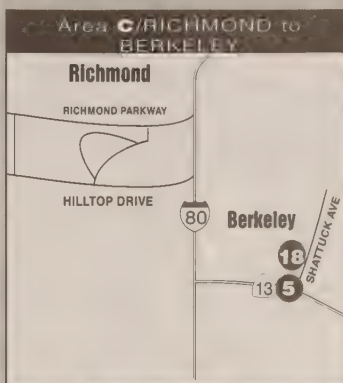
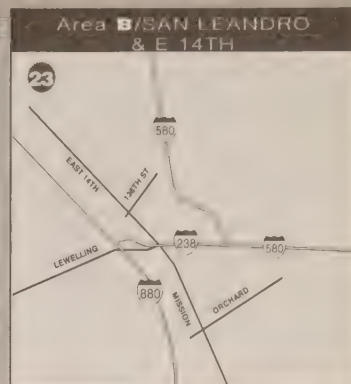
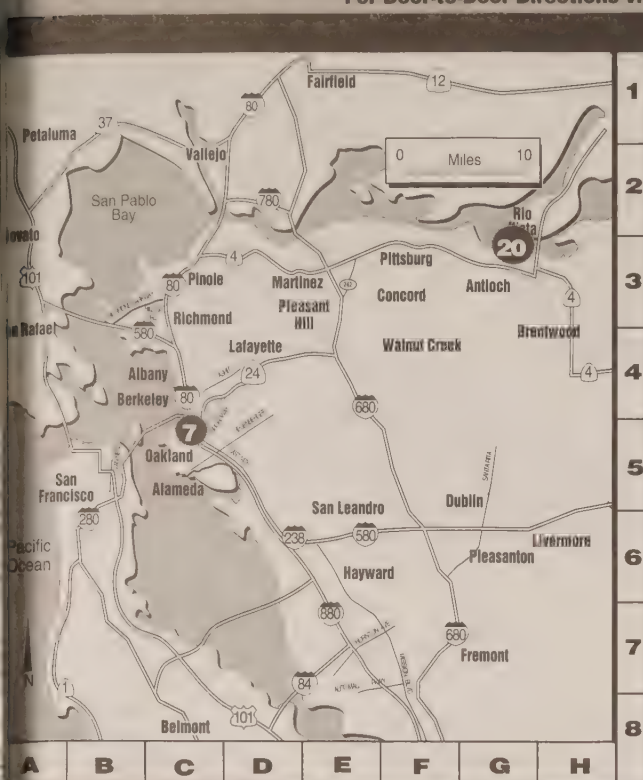
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**21. Toyota Vallejo D-2**  
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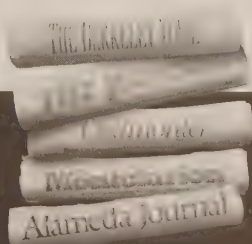
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**Alameda**

1320 WEBER FRI./SAT 10-5  
Lg. Pigeon, SAT 10-5  
Lg. chest, radio, etc.  
mat/springs 50¢ each  
CDs, records, tools, etc.  
lamp, electronics, guitar  
misc. and more

**1323 Central Ave.**  
Trunk, Luthier on Ch. 300  
Sat. 7/12, 8:30-3:30PM  
**BIG SALE!**  
Inside Church Hall, on  
Mortons. Lots of misc.

**200 Block INVERNESS CT.**  
Block Sale SAT/SUN 9-5  
Tools, furniture, Yu. Qi  
cards, computer, etc.  
misc. collectibles, etc.

**3006 CENTRAL AVE.**  
SAT 9-1  
New, desk, lots of chairs,  
couch, arm area  
rugs, game table

**3177 myers Ln., off 12th**  
on Bayly Road SAT 7/12,  
9-5 Silver & bronze age  
stuff, mon. tons. H. items,  
misc. antiques, coins, etc.  
blues, rubber mat & chess  
set. No Early Birds!

**348 MADONIA**  
BAY FARM ISLAND  
Multi Family  
Baby items & misc. SAT  
July 12th, 9-11:30

**3 FAMILY YARD SALE**  
728 CENTRAL AVE. SAT  
SAT 9-3  
Great quality, variety  
Electronics, housewares,  
children's games, dolls,  
clothes, etc. etc. etc.  
Have fun & buy our stuff!

**459 SHEFFIELD RD.**  
SAT 9-4  
Antiques and other great  
stuff. Price to go. SAT  
DON'T MISS THIS!

**920 SANTA CLARA**  
SAT 9-4  
Stacking washer/dryer,  
refrig., microwave, etc.  
No Early Birds

**1000 MULTI-FAMILY**  
Block Sale SAT 9-11AM  
Baby items, etc. etc.  
**Goodies Galore!**  
A little bit of everything  
for everyone!

**BOOK SALE AND SINGING**  
SAT 12-2  
WHAT'S HOT CALL IT  
Alameda Book Writer

**1600 HIBBARD ST.**  
SAT 9-3  
Lots of good items  
DON'T MISS

**DRIVEWAY SALE**  
FAMILIES  
SAT/SUN 9-5  
Various items, antiques,  
etc. etc. etc.

**ESTATED SALE**  
SAT/SUN 9am-4pm  
3550 LINDEN AVE. 94506  
50 YEARS OF STUFF  
Bedroom & din. ng set,  
etc. etc. etc.

**FRONT, BACK YARD SALE**  
2104 EAGLE & WILLOW  
SAT 9-5  
Little of everything  
Toys, Trains, and more  
You name it, I have it

**GARAGE SALE**  
1438 SHERMAN ST.  
SAT 8-777  
Lots of misc. household

**GARAGE SALE**  
849 OAK STREET  
SAT/SUN 8-4  
Crib, baby items, bed,  
furniture, clothes, misc.

**GARAGE SALE**  
7/12, 9am-2pm  
1911 Fernside Blvd.  
Baby items, clothes, toys,  
etc. etc. etc.

**HUGE YARD SALE**  
30+ YRS ACCUMULATION  
462 TAYLOR AVE.  
SAT/SUN 8-3-2  
Something for everyone

**HUGE YARD SALE**  
SUNDAY 7/13  
9am to 4pm  
1700 Block of Eagle Ave.

**ISLAND ANNUAL**  
1138 & 12th Ave. BFI  
SAT 7/12-9-2  
Dress, Misc. Trunk

**MOVING SALE**  
1019 MORTON ST.  
SAT 9-2  
LOTS OF EVERYTHING  
EVERYTHING MUST GO!

**MOVING SALE**  
POTTER PARK, SMITH &  
HAWKINS OUTLET  
Lots of Treasures  
1033 Central Ave.  
SAT 8-4  
Architect's desk, garden

**HUGE GIFT SAMPLE SALE**  
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Aquarium, book, household  
items, kids clothes, sport-  
ing, etc. etc. etc.  
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Affordable Rates  
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**UNITED HAULERS**  
Yrd. clean-up, roof tear  
off, foundation, etc.  
Excavation, etc. etc.  
510-815-5794 cell 215-6365

**Alameda**

1320 WEBER FRI./SAT 10-5  
Lg. Pigeon, SAT 10-5  
Lg. chest, radio, etc.  
mat/springs 50¢ each  
CDs, records, tools, etc.  
lamp, electronics, guitar  
misc. and more

**1323 Central Ave.**  
Trunk, Luthier on Ch. 300  
Sat. 7/12, 8:30-3:30PM  
**BIG SALE!**  
Inside Church Hall, on  
Mortons. Lots of misc.

**200 Block INVERNESS CT.**  
Block Sale SAT/SUN 9-5  
Tools, furniture, Yu. Qi  
cards, computer, etc.  
misc. collectibles, etc.

**3006 CENTRAL AVE.**  
SAT 9-1  
New, desk, lots of chairs,  
couch, arm area  
rugs, game table

**3177 myers Ln., off 12th**  
on Bayly Road SAT 7/12,  
9-5 Silver & bronze age  
stuff, mon. tons. H. items,  
misc. antiques, coins, etc.  
blues, rubber mat & chess  
set. No Early Birds!

**348 MADONIA**  
BAY FARM ISLAND  
Multi Family  
Baby items & misc. SAT  
July 12th, 9-11:30

**3 FAMILY YARD SALE**  
728 CENTRAL AVE. SAT  
SAT 9-3  
Great quality, variety  
Electronics, housewares,  
children's games, dolls,  
clothes, etc. etc. etc.  
Have fun & buy our stuff!

**459 SHEFFIELD RD.**  
SAT 9-4  
Antiques and other great  
stuff. Price to go. SAT  
DON'T MISS THIS!

**920 SANTA CLARA**  
SAT 9-4  
Stacking washer/dryer,  
refrig., microwave, etc.  
No Early Birds

**1000 MULTI-FAMILY**  
Block Sale SAT 9-11AM  
Baby items, etc. etc.  
**Goodies Galore!**  
A little bit of everything  
for everyone!

**BOOK SALE AND SINGING**  
SAT 12-2  
WHAT'S HOT CALL IT  
Alameda Book Writer

**1600 HIBBARD ST.**  
SAT 9-3  
Lots of good items  
DON'T MISS

**DRIVEWAY SALE**  
FAMILIES  
SAT/SUN 9-5  
Various items, antiques,  
etc. etc. etc.

**ESTATED SALE**  
SAT/SUN 9am-4pm  
3550 LINDEN AVE. 94506  
50 YEARS OF STUFF  
Bedroom & din. ng set,  
etc. etc. etc.

**FRONT, BACK YARD SALE**  
2104 EAGLE & WILLOW  
SAT 9-5  
Little of everything  
Toys, Trains, and more  
You name it, I have it

**GARAGE SALE**  
1438 SHERMAN ST.  
SAT 8-777  
Lots of misc. household

**GARAGE SALE**  
849 OAK STREET  
SAT/SUN 8-4  
Crib, baby items, bed,  
furniture, clothes, misc.

**GARAGE SALE**  
7/12, 9am-2pm  
1911 Fernside Blvd.  
Baby items, clothes, toys,  
etc. etc. etc.

**HUGE YARD SALE**  
30+ YRS ACCUMULATION  
462 TAYLOR AVE.  
SAT/SUN 8-3-2  
Something for everyone

**HUGE YARD SALE**  
SUNDAY 7/13  
9am to 4pm  
1700 Block of Eagle Ave.

**ISLAND ANNUAL**  
1138 & 12th Ave. BFI  
SAT 7/12-9-2  
Dress, Misc. Trunk

**MOVING SALE**  
1019 MORTON ST.  
SAT 9-2  
LOTS OF EVERYTHING  
EVERYTHING MUST GO!

**MOVING SALE**  
POTTER PARK, SMITH &  
HAWKINS OUTLET  
Lots of Treasures  
1033 Central Ave.  
SAT 8-4  
Architect's desk, garden

**HUGE GIFT SAMPLE SALE**  
7/12 9am-3pm  
Aquarium, book, household  
items, kids clothes, sport-  
ing, etc. etc. etc.  
of Carlsbrook Center

**Antioch**

100 BOWLING ST. Carole  
horse, lots of collectibles,  
Furn., art, antiques, etc.  
h. angels, toys, etc.  
510-551-1162, 232-4519

**1216 Almondwood Dr.**  
SAT 7/12, 9am-2pm  
BAM-APM  
Furniture, paintings, books,  
etc. etc. etc.

**1216 Almondwood Dr.**  
SAT 7/12, 9am-2pm  
BAM-APM  
Furniture, paintings, books,  
etc. etc. etc.

**1216 Almondwood Dr.**  
SAT 7/12, 9am-2pm  
BAM-APM  
Furniture, paintings, books,  
etc. etc. etc.

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BAM-APM  
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**1216 Almondwood Dr.**  
SAT 7/12, 9am-2pm  
BAM-APM  
Furniture, paintings, books,  
etc. etc. etc.









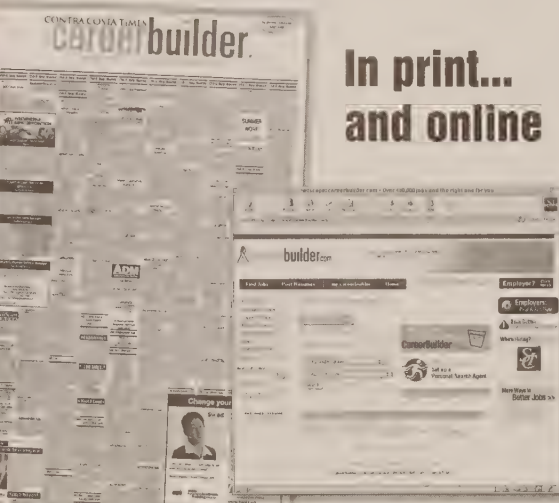


# Check out the biggest job board in the East Bay.

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

## careerbuilder®

In print...  
and online



### Tired of looking at old job postings? CareerBuilder has fresh job postings every 30 days.

CareerBuilder in print and online  
features more Bay Area career  
opportunities than any other source.

### East Bay Job Listings as of 2 PM, Tuesday, July 1

Search Criteria	careerbuilder	Monster	HotJobs
Walnut Creek	2684	213	1000
Oakland	4000	2508	1000

### Employers:

See why East Bay recruiters prefer  
CareerBuilder to any other online job board.  
Call the Contra Costa Newspapers'  
Recruitment Team at (925) 977-8503.

## CONTRA COSTA TIMES HILLS NEWSPAPERS

ContraCostaTimes.com

### Employment

**DRIVER**  
Summerville at Creekside Lodge is seeking a Driver w/Class B lic. & over 5 yrs. exp. You may be the right person for us. We offer comp. sal., bnfts., & 401k. Please apply at 1356 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo, CA 94866

**DRIVERS** Wanted: S.F. Chronicle needs carriers. Immed. for new routes in San Ramon & Danville area. Early AM. 2-3 hrs/night, \$45/wk. Must have CDL & ins. Routes from \$1000/mo. up to \$3000/mo. No collection. Please Call 925-831-9510

**DRIVER/Warehouse, F/T**  
M-F. Apply in person w/ clean DMV printout, San Pablo, CA 94866

**EDUCATION**  
Athletic Director  
O'Hara Park Middle School  
2003-2004 School yr.  
\$2,000 stipend pd. In 2 installments Dec & June

**STENO**  
Apply:  
Oakley Union Elementary School District  
91 Merced Lane  
Oakley, CA 94561  
(925) 655-0700

**Deadline to apply:**  
Monday, July 14, 2003  
at 4:00 p.m.

**EDUCATION: Dean of Education-Pleasant Hill, resp.**  
For day-to-day mgmt. of educ. programs & handling of student issues. BA/BS req. MA/MS desired, plus 3 yrs. exper. in a mgmt. pos. req. rel. educ. related. Mail/Fax resume, resume/letter of interest. Incl. salary req. to J. Akins, Western Piedmont College, 380 Civic Drive, 3600 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 925-959-6666 jfkins@westerncollege.com

**ELECTRICIANS:** Barnum & Hill Electric Inc. is now hiring electricians for a local project. Min 2 yrs exp. Call 916-666-6661  
**Web ID CC070216560**

**ELECTRICIANS:** Exp. apprentice & journey level. For Antioch area. Fax resume 916-925-7999  
**Web ID CC070217862**

**ENGINEERS**  
Affiliated Engineers seeks a Plumbing/Piping Engineer/Senior Designer. Must have minimum 5 years experience designing piping system including medical & lab piping. Strong communication skills required. RS CPE/CPD cert. strongly desired. Send resume to hrw@aeieng.com  
**Web ID CC070270165**

**ENGINEERING**  
Affiliated Engineers seeks an HVAC Project Engineer with a min. 8-10 yrs. exp. designing low-scale HVAC systems for California hospitals. Both new const. & refurb. exp. des. Strong communic. skills incl. writing, engineering, spec. Mgmt. travel. BSME req. PE pref. Send resume to hrw@aeieng.com  
**Web ID CC070270170**

**ESCROW ASST. F/T w/**  
downing Title Co. in Walnut Creek. Some exp. pref. Fax resume to 925-971-0285

**ESCROW & TITLE**  
Experience rewarded. Contract or Permanent. 888-686-5264  
Jason, fortune@all.com  
949-752-5378 (fax)  
www.all.com  
**Web ID CC0706**

**FACILITIES MANAGER**  
Large Peninsula based Commercial Mgmt. Company seeks EXPERIENCED indiv. to do repairs, painting and tenant improvements at our many office buildings and industrial parks in the EAST BAY AREA. Must have tools and TRUCK with insurance. Fax resume to 598-9094

**Fitness Trainer:** Top rated athletic club seeks PT fitness trainer for women's fitness. Flex schedule. Both AM & PM shifts. Good pay, great place to work. Call Karen at The Big C Athletic Club 925-971-2110 or fax res. to (925) 825-7992.

**GENERAL OFFICE-Office Asst.** (you decide which is best). F/T or asst. needed for a variety of duties. It, accounting background pref. Must be good in math. 10 key by touch. Cashiers/ Clerks welcome. 707-747-5437 or fax 707-747-5789

**Graphic Design and Other Similar Services:** The Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services Dept. announces Request for Interest (RFI) # 204 seeking individuals or organizations to provide graphic design, photocopying, proofreading, production and other similar services to the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) & Workforce Development Board (WDB) bureaus of EHS&D. A contract up to \$24,000 will be awarded to successful bidder. For additional information and requirements, visit [www.ehsd.org/rfi](http://www.ehsd.org/rfi).

**GREAT TIPS FOR WAITRESS & BARTENDERS:** Orndorf Restaurant is seeking waiters/bartenders for exp. Must be 21. Fast starter & fun. Only 925-364-0644 or fax 925-364-6812

**GREETERS:** Extra money welcoming new customers. Ramon, Conn., Lat. & Liv. 10-15 hrs. exp. 925-944-0488

**HAIR/STYLIST & Manicurist**  
station for rent.  
El Sobrante, 516-69-1565

**HAIR STYLIST:** Needed for Antioch Salon. Comm. or sal. Hair station avail. 925-778-0309

**HAIR/STYLIST:** Rent/commission & salary. Call Julie: 510-652-5454

**HAIR/STYLIST:** Sal. & comm 512-514/hr. for busy Concord salon. 925-682-8312

**Healthcare-Admissions Director:** HCR Manorene, a leader in the long-term care industry for over 40 years, seeks a highly experienced salesperson to fill our Admissions Director position. Position is resp. for revenue generation, census development & coordination of sales making efforts. A mktg. degree is desirable, and healthcare experience is a plus. New grads are encouraged to apply. Fax resume to (925) 906-0201, attn: Paul. E.O.E. m/v/d/v

**Healthcare:** Medical Hill Rehab Center and Join a Team that Cares!

Medical Hill has immediate openings in key positions:

• Assistant Director of Nurses  
• RN Night Shift Supervisor  
• RN Supervisor Phis 3-11  
• Social Services Director  
• Activity Assistant  
• MDS Coordinator

Medical Hill is a 124 bed skilled nursing facility that has diverse nursing services including a Neurobehavioral Unit.

For more information or to set up an interview, contact Roberta Owen, Medical Hill  
475 29th Street  
Oakland, CA 94609  
Phone: 510.832.3222  
Fax: 510.832.3617

**HEALTHCARE**  
PM Care Aides  
Lg. Assist Living, PM shift only, \$8-8.75. Apply at 1081 Mohr Lane Concord.

**HEALTHCARE**  
PM Care Supervisor  
Hands On, exp. pref'd. Compet. sal & bnfts. Fax res 916/722-8780

**HOTEL DESK CLERK**  
Exp. pref'd. El Monte Inn Concord. Fax resume to 925-827-4756

### Employment

**HOTEL**  
CONCORD HILTON is currently seeking

• Asst. Banquet Mgr.  
• Cook

Please apply in person, Tuesday-Thursday, from 9:15am to 4:00pm at Concord Hilton, 9100 Diamond Blvd., Concord, CA 94520

**HOTEL**  
Executive Housekeeper  
1400 Rte 92, Suite 100, Antioch, CA 94509  
Fax resume to 925-295-4342 or e-mail to: jbolinger@latayetteparkhotel.com

**HOTEL:** Front desk, grave yard shift, PT, comm. pay. coral Reef Motel Alameda, 510-521-2330.

**HOTEL**  
HOLIDAY INN SAN FRANCISCO/BAY BRIDGE is seeking:  
• Maint/Eng'g: exp. in hvac & plumbing a plus

**BECOME PART OF OUR TEAM**  
Fax cover ltr w/ resume to: hr@berdand.com  
Or email: Lori.berdand@gmail.com

**Hotel Maint Engineer**  
Detailed, reliable, org. hands on, quality worker for 125 rms. Trainable & eager for more resp. req. Fax res: 925-463-6600

**Marriott**  
San Ramon, Pleasant Hill, Pleasanton

• Banquet Servers  
• Dishwashers  
• Station Attendant  
• Restaurant Server  
• Busser  
• Front Desk Clerk  
• Housekeeping Aide  
• Security

We offer great bnfts as well as career opp. for a lifetime. F/T/PT positions open in all areas. Resumes to 925-241-1314 to set up an interview.  
Call E/M/D/V

**Marriott**  
Walnut Creek

**FRONT DESK AGENT**  
Exciting opp. for dynamic customer svc. professional. 2-3 yrs. exp. will have hotel exp. & ext. travel. BSM req. Flex. schedule & wknds. req'd. Competitive wage & bnfts. Fax resume 925-933-6043 or call 925-927-1111 for info.

**HOUSECLEANERS**  
To clean model homes in Antioch/Brentwood/Calaveras area. 1-888-434-4257.

**HOUSEKEEPERS NEEDED!**  
Top Pay  
• \$50 Bonus  
• Flexible schedule 20-40 hrs/wk  
• Phone/Eng/Clerk Req'd  
• 24 Hr Housekeeping Personnel Service  
510-654-0414 Alameda City  
925-939-3392 Contra Costa  
510-264-0679 Hayward  
925-846-1556 Tri-Valley

**HVAC**  
Comm. Installers & Svc. Techs. EXPER. REQ'D. IDEAL SERVC. CO. 925-687-5454  
**Web ID CC061340115**

**HVAC/COMM. HVAC.** looking for exp'd. journeymen, exp. or less. 2 yrs. exp. Kell Mech. 97 Wright Bros. Ave. 925-345-9800

**HVAC INSTALLERS**  
Exp. installers needed. Res. New Const. 2 yrs. exp. no waiting period for hire. Paid Holidays & Vacation. For immediate interview, call  
**Web ID CC070267542**

**HVAC. Sales Person, Installer & Installer Helper**  
Exp. Comm. HVAC. Svc. Co. Gt pay & bnfts. Call George 925-163-0911

**WANTED**  
• Great Pay & Incentives  
• Immed. Med/Dev/Vision  
• Paid Holidays, Vacations  
• July 1st enrollment into plan w/ no waiting period  
• Growth Opportunity  
• You are an exp'd HVAC tradesman, Come work for one of the Area Leaders, and find out why you can really be successful.  
Call Air Design's Human Resources Dept. 1-800-999-0003 or fax res. to 707-455-1039  
**Web ID CC070675727**

**Inside Sales:** A Cisco Hardware Salesperson will sell starter & strong closure w/mult. selling ability. Exp. selling in a high tech industry w/knowledge of Cisco products. Fax resume to 925-426-8285  
Call 925-426-8285

**INSTALLER**  
Immediate opening for Experienced Window installers. Must have truck & tools. OMNI 925-655-3812

**INSTALLER-INSULATION**  
Blown attic insulation. Immed. openings. Dd. DMV. P/T/F, \$10-15 based on exp. 925-935-7665

**INSTALLER/SVC. TECH.**  
For San Rafael Fireplace Shop. Will be exp'd in DMV & Appearance. F/T. Fax resume 415-479-5913

**INSTRUCTOR, P/T** eve. for 2nd sch. in Contra. exp. in Const. Math. Law Br Bus. Billing. 10-15 hrs. 1st. Fax res. 818-786-1105

**INSURANCE CSR FT. FR.**  
Lic'd Farmer's Exp. Health Bnft Fax res 925-763-9562

**INSURANCE**  
State Compensation Insurance Fund  
Enjoy a career with California's largest provider of workers' compensation insurance. Our San Francisco & Oakland district offices currently have opportunities for:

• Workers' Compensation Claims Adjusters  
• Workers' Compensation Insurance Representatives  
• Workers' Compensation Payroll Auditors

Experience is a plus, but will be provided.  
Annual Salary: \$33,168 to \$54,984  
Plus Excellent Benefits!  
Requirements: Equivalent to graduation from an accredited college with a bachelors' degree OR 4 years experience performing similar differential. DCE compensation responsibilities.

**Application Deadline:**  
July 14, 2003  
Written Test:  
August 26, 2003

**Mail application to:**  
State Compensation Insurance Fund, HR  
PO Box 420607  
San Francisco, CA 94142-0607

For application and detailed bulletin call:  
415-666-1160, ext. 3100  
Impaired call:  
TDD 415-703-7078.  
Or visit: [www.scif.com](http://www.scif.com). EOE

**CLASSIFIED = RESULTS**

### Employment

**INTERVENTION SPECIALIST**  
Temporary Position  
Start July 21, 2003  
December 19, 2003  
Proper credentials req'd.

Bilingual \$17,363 + 5%  
Bilingual \$17,363 + 5%  
EOE Closes 7/11/03

**JANITORIAL/HKSPK.**  
Blind Cleaners Club in Danville is looking for hardworking, honest, self driven individuals, able to work alone or as a team. 5 days per week. Incl. wnds, FT, bnfts, meals, uniforms provided. Fax res. 925-736-6338

**LABORATORY TRAINEE**  
Entry level. Mon. thru Fri. 8:30 to 5. \$9.50/hour. Livermore. 925-449-8805

**LAB TECHNICIAN, PT.** Environmental Microbiology. Pt. Rich. labyco@aol.com

**LANDSCAPE**  
INSTALLATION FOREMAN  
Competitive wages paid w/ky. Apply M-F 8-3:30pm  
Landscaping Care Co., 4026 Pacheco Blvd., Martinez  
Se Habla Espanol

**LANDSCAPE FOREMAN**  
Competitive wages paid w/ky. Apply M-F 8-3:30pm  
Landscaping Care Co., 4026 Pacheco Blvd., Martinez  
Se Habla Espanol

**LANDSCAPE Maintenance:**  
Bilingual, 2 yrs. exp. bi-lingual, gd. CDL printout. DCE or 1317H/F. Call 9-3PM. 925-367-0178

**LEASING AGENT: Temp.**  
Bilingual, 2 yrs. exp. Must work w/nds. Have some exp. in leasing (not a sales rep). Salary comm. incl. health insurance. Tues thru Sat. with Linda at 5400 Rte. 92, Suite 44236. Please visit [www.jcmf.com](http://www.jcmf.com)

**LEGAL ASST: Complex trial**  
litigation Asst. w/ 5+ yrs. exp. for E. County Superior Court in Discovery calendaring. Trial exp. & legal skills. Excellent work well under pressure & a team player. Non-smoker. Sal. by exp. negot. Fax 925-275-0153  
**Web ID CC070217862**

**LEGAL Secretary, Exp.**  
litigation secy. needed for 2 attorneys. Must be able to summarize to 925-374-0401 or [info@lawgroup.com](mailto:info@lawgroup.com)

**LOAN AGENTS**  
Training avail. FT or work from home. 925-866-7888

**LOAN**  
"DUP/PA Data entry" Processors, Jr/Sr  
Many Bay Area Locations  
Not just another mortgage job. We have the career you want.  
925-944-8412  
Info@srsgroup.com

**LOAN**  
Growing conventional lender looking to build operations team in San Ramon. If you are motivated to be richly rewarded for mortgage banking please submit your resume to 925-935-2881

**LOAN OFFICER:** for hip & marketing savvy mortgage officer. 925-935-2881

**Loan Processor or Processor**  
Brentwood, Lic. or newly lic. Training provided. Fax res. 925-939-3393  
**Web ID CC062585554**

**LOAN OFFICERS:** Growing statewide mortgage broker firm, looking for highly motivated individuals. Leads provided by co. Needs closers w/strong credit for success. Fax resume 925-931-1001 or Fax resume 925-931-1001  
**Web ID CC070267072**

**LOAN ORIGINATOR:**  
FT, FT job. Will Train High Income Mortgage Officer, Commis. only. 925-971-7272  
**Web ID CC070466685**

**LOAN PROCESSOR - Exp.**  
Reg. Small P.O. ch. Fax salary w/ exp. 925-871-5959  
Jobsarehere1

**Loan Processors, Agents & Telemarketers.** Exp'd. Antioch Mtg. 925-980-4815

**Loan-Residential Loan Underwriter**  
Seeking experienced Residential Loan Underwriter with FNMMA/FLMCA. 10 yrs. exp. in mortgage industry. Willing to relocate. Fax resume to 925-935-2881  
**Web ID CC06256906**

**LOANS**  
Diablo Funding Group  
Positions Avail.  
He Will Hire!  
• Friendly Work Environ.  
• Top Rated Performance  
• CA 94517, EOE or fax to: 925-314-3500

**LOANS FHA/VA Underwriter**  
3-5 yrs. exp. Will open P/T morning 474-2041 or fax resume 925-935-2881  
**Web ID CC062569063**

**LOCKSMITH, exp'd.** Top pay & benefits. Res. 925-935-7665

**MACHINIST** CNC program set-up & QA Inspector w/ 2-5 yrs. exp. 925-935-7665  
**Web ID CC070263245**

**MAINTENANCE TECH. & DOCK HAND 2 pos.** Maint. Tech is resp. for a wide range of activities. Must be exp'd in heavy machinery. exp. Dock Hand exp. 925-935-7665

**MAINTENANCE**  
The Bayer Biological Products Center for Biotechnology in Berkeley is seeking to fulfill the following position:

**BOILER TECHNICIAN**  
Responsible for the operation and maintenance of all boiler equipment such as boilers, air compressors, condensate pumps, water treatment, purification, and water systems. Requires 4 years of related experience and journeyman level skills with boiler equipment and knowledge of all related codes and regulations. Must be able to work independently. A strong command of the English language. A working knowledge of at least one craft is required. Experience in a related environment is preferred. This is a graveyard shift position. Will pay \$22.75 to \$23.35 per hr plus \$2.00 shift differential. DCE

Please forward your resume to: Attn: J. Foster, Fax: 925-935-7665 or mail to: [jfoster@bayer.com](mailto:jfoster@bayer.com), indicating Job Code BK-2500. Bayer an equal opportunity employer committed to diversity in the workplace.

**BAYER**  
[www.foundatbayer.com](http://www.foundatbayer.com)

**cars.com**  
new & used

### Employment

**JO-Ann Stores Inc**  
MANAGEMENT

Run your own business. Our dynamic field management teams operate each Jo-Ann store as a business. They work together to provide an exceptional customer experience, motivate & develop their teams to reach their goals, and increase profitability.

Exp'd Retail Store Management. Professionals with experience in retail management opportunities with Jo-Ann Stores Inc. (bring your resume & references) & meet our team in person.

**Store Management opportunities:**  
District Manager in Training  
Store Managers  
Operations Managers  
Merchandise Managers  
Inventory Control Specialists

**OPEN HOUSE Job Fair**  
(Experienced Retail Management Professionals Only)  
Contact: 5555 Shillington Street, Emeryville  
**9:00am - July 8, 2003**  
**9:00am - 3:00pm**

Unable to attend our Open House? We'll deliver your resume to E-mail: [recruiting@joannstores.com](mailto:recruiting@joannstores.com) or by mail to: Jo-Ann Stores Inc. (in subject line) or by fax to: Jo-Ann Stores Inc., 5555 Shillington Street, Emeryville, CA 94608-4426. Please visit [www.joann.com](http://www.joann.com) to learn more about us! EOE

**MANAGEMENT TRAINEE**  
New Offices Opening  
Independent Contractor Mgmt. Inc. (ICM) one of the nation's fastest growing financial services co. (NASDAQ: SIPC) announces immed. openings in sales & marketing. We're looking for career oriented individuals with a strong background in sales & a complete training program. Top Pay/bnfts. 401k match, comm. Top Payers/Top Performers. Call Monday 800-600-7620  
[www.icmfinc.com](http://www.icmfinc.com)

**MANAGER**  
Harris & Associates Recreational & Park district is recruiting for a general manager. The successful candidate will have excellent customer svc. skills & a record of facilities management, recreation, and programing. Great pay & benefits. Apply to: Harris & Associates, 401K match, comm. Top Payers/Top Performers. Call Monday 800-600-7620  
[www.icmfinc.com](http://www.icmfinc.com)

**MANAGER I.T.** 5+ yrs. exp. in IT. B.S. degree w/ Windows, LAN, WAN, SQL, C++, HTML, MRP, staff, vendors. \$100K+ bonus. Fax resume to: [earlthink@earthlink.net](mailto:earlthink@earthlink.net)

**Marketing Coordinator**  
Harris & Associates Recreational & Park district is recruiting for a general manager. The successful candidate will have excellent customer svc. skills & a record of facilities management, recreation, and programing. Great pay & benefits. Apply to: Harris & Associates, 401K match, comm. Top Payers/Top Performers. Call Monday 800-600-7620  
[www.icmfinc.com](http://www.icmfinc.com)

**MARKETING MANAGER**  
Harris & Associates Recreational & Park district is recruiting for a general manager. The successful candidate will have excellent customer svc. skills & a record of facilities management, recreation, and programing. Great pay & benefits. Apply to: Harris & Associates, 401K match, comm. Top Payers/Top Performers. Call Monday 800-600-7620  
[www.icmfinc.com](http://www.icmfinc.com)

**MARKETING MANAGER**  
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*Real Estate & Home*  
 Advertising supplement to The Alameda Journal  
 Friday, September 14, 2001

**Weekly Home Sales** Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B7]  
**Open Home Guide** See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B8]

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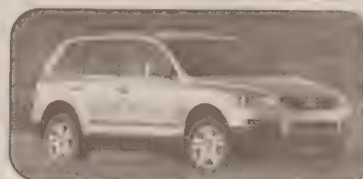
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**\$22,360**

### 2003 Jetta GLS

Automatic, Moonroof, Alloy Wheels, Monsoon Stereo, CD Player



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**\$18,065**

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Automatic, Power Windows and Locks  
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PROMO

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PRICE.....\$15,590

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PROMO

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**\$15,757**

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Tiptronic Automatic, 4MOTION, Silver w/ Gray Leo  
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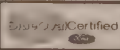
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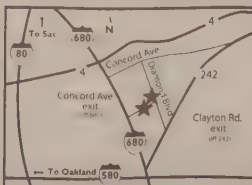


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# Shopping Plus

Friday, July 11, 2003

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

**Look inside** for local advertising circulars every Friday

## ix friends and food for simply great brunch

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AND KATE NICHOLSON  
SOUTHERN LIVING

all know there are many special occasions to celebrate, but why not make a big event when a glorious day is reason enough to throw a party?

A colorful decorating theme has loads of fresh ideas, all of which are economical and doable. Making button-and-bead wine is a fun way to give new life to old linens, our boxes are brimming with easy how-tos. And forget the complicated menu; six recipes showcase much of this season's produce, making this the perfect collection for a weather brunch.

### HAMPAGNE PUNCH

(11.5-ounce) can frozen orange juice concentrate, undiluted  
(1-ounce) can frozen lemon concentrate, thawed and undiluted

(2-ounce) can or 1 1/2 cups apple cider, chilled  
(500-milliliter) bottle champagne or sparkling white grape juice

1 cup bottled sparkling water, chilled  
1/2 cup frozen concentrates in bowl. Add remaining ingredients, stirring gently. Serve immediately.

If you prefer a punch that's sweeter, just add additional sparkling water to taste.  
Serves 10. Time: 10 minutes. Makes 10 cups.

Recipe: Linda Davidson, Meridian, Idaho

### MUN-DRIED TOMATO CHEESECAKE

1 cup minced dried tomatoes, drained

in oil

1 (15-ounce) package refrigerated piecrusts

2 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, softened

3 large eggs

1 (5-ounce) package shredded Swiss cheese

3 green onions, chopped (about 1/4 cup)

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon pepper

1/4 teaspoon ground red pepper

1 1/4 cups sour cream

Garnishes: edible pansies, marigolds and nasturtiums, fresh chives, green onion stems, fresh mint leaves

Drain tomatoes well, pressing between paper towels. Set aside.

Unfold piecrusts; place one piecrust on a lightly floured surface, and brush with water. Top with remaining crust. Roll into 1 (12 1/2-inch) circle. Press piecrust on bottom and up sides of a lightly greased 9-inch springform pan. Press out folds in piecrust on sides of pan; turn edge over 1/2 inch toward the inside and gently press. Crimp with a fork, if desired. Freeze piecrust 30 minutes.

Bake at 450 degrees for 7 minutes. Remove piecrust from oven, and reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees.

Beat cream cheese at medium speed with an electric mixer 2 to 3 minutes or until light and fluffy. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in tomatoes, Swiss cheese, and next 4 ingredients, mixing well. Pour into baked piecrust.

Bake on lower rack at 350° for 35 to 40 minutes or until golden brown and set. Spread sour cream evenly over top. Cool on wire rack for 20 minutes; cover and chill 8 hours.

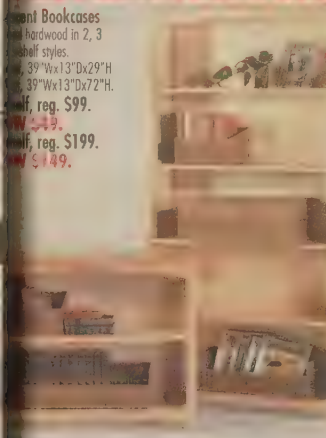
See BRUNCH, Page 2



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MARTIN RAY RUSSIAN RIVER CHARDONNAY	\$12.99

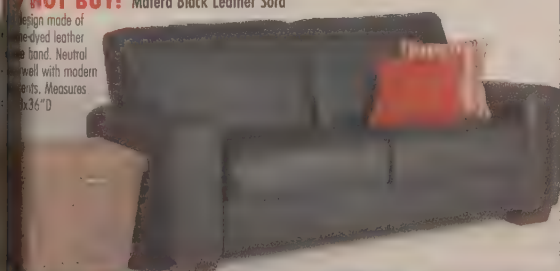
**RED WINES**

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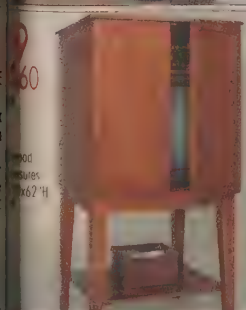


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# Brunch

FROM PAGE 1

hours. Place cheesecake on serving plate; release and remove sides of pan. Garnish, if desired.

Note: Edible flowers can be found next to the fresh herbs in the produce section of larger grocery stores. Prep time: 15 minutes, freeze time: 30 minutes. Bake time 47 minutes, cool time: 20 minutes, chill time: 8 hours. Makes 20 to 24 appetizer servings.

Recipe: Carlie Stein, Birmingham, Ala.

## MOLASSES-COFFEE GLAZED HAM

1 cup molasses  
1 (12-ounce) jar apricot jam  
2 tablespoons cider vinegar  
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
¾ cup brewed strong coffee  
1 (8- to 9-pound) bone-in, fully cooked smoked ham half

Stir together the first 7 ingredients to blend. Reserve 1 cup molasses-coffee sauce in a small bowl; set the reserved sauce aside.

Trim ham, and, if desired, score in a diamond pattern. Place ham in a lightly greased 13- x 9-inch pan. Pour remaining molasses-coffee sauce evenly over ham.

Bake, on lower rack, at 350 degrees for 2 hours or until a meat thermometer registers 140 degrees, basting with sauce in pan every 15 minutes. Cover loosely with lightly greased aluminum foil the last 30 minutes to prevent excessive browning, if necessary.

Remove ham from baking pan; let stand at room temperature 30 minutes. Heat reserved molasses-coffee sauce, and serve with ham.

Prep time: 20 minutes, bake time: 2 hours, stand time: 30 minutes. Makes 10 to 12 servings.

**Molasses-Coffee Glazed Turkey Breast:** Substitute 1 (5- to 5 ½-pound) bone-in turkey breast with skin for ham. Place turkey in a lightly greased 11- x 7-inch pan. Proceed as directed, covering loosely with aluminum foil before baking. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour; uncover and bake 1 to 1 ½ more hours or until a meat thermometer inserted into the thickest portion registers 170 degrees, basting with molasses-coffee sauce every 15 minutes. Serve with warm reserved molasses-coffee sauce. Makes 10 to 12 servings. Prep time: 20 minutes; bake time: 2 hours, 30 minutes; cook time: 5 minutes.

## GRAND ORANGES AND STRAWBERRIES

¾ cup orange marmalade  
1 ½ cups sparkling white grape juice, chilled  
¼ cup orange liqueur  
10 to 12 large navel oranges, peeled and sectioned  
2 cups sliced fresh strawberries  
Melt marmalade in a small saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly; remove from heat, and let cool slightly.

Stir together marmalade, white grape juice and orange liqueur in a large serving dish or bowl until blended. Add orange sections, and

gently stir. Cover and chill 8 hours. Add strawberries to oranges in bowl, and gently stir. Serve with a slotted spoon.

Note: We used Grand Marnier for orange liqueur.

Prep time: 30 minutes, chill time: 8 hours. Makes 10 to 12 servings.

Recipe: Julia Mitchell, Birmingham, Ala.

## LEMON-MARINATED ASPARAGUS

½ cup fresh lemon juice  
3 tablespoons olive oil  
2 tablespoons sugar  
¼ teaspoon salt  
¼ teaspoon pepper  
1 garlic clove, minced  
1 (14-ounce) can artichoke heart quarters, drained  
1 (4-ounce) jar diced pimiento, drained

2 pounds fresh asparagus  
Garnish: lemon rind strips  
Whisk together lemon juice and next 5 ingredients in a large bowl; add artichoke quarters and diced pimiento, and gently toss. Cover and chill 8 hours or overnight.

Snap off tough ends of asparagus; cook in boiling salted water to cover 3 minutes or until crisp-tender. Drain asparagus, and plunge into ice water to stop cooking process. Place cooked asparagus in a large heavy-duty zip-top plastic bag, and store overnight in refrigerator, if desired.

Add asparagus to artichoke mixture, and gently toss. Cover and chill 2 hours. Garnish, if desired.

Note: We limited the marinating time to 2 hours; lemon juice tends to discolor and toughen asparagus.

Prep time: 20 minutes, chill time: 10 hours, cook time: 3 minutes. Makes 10 to 12 servings.

## BLUEBERRY BREAD PUDDING

1 (16-ounce) French bread loaf, cubed  
1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, cut into pieces  
3 cups fresh blueberries, divided  
6 large eggs  
4 cups milk  
½ cup sugar  
¼ cup butter or margarine, melted  
¼ cup maple syrup  
1 (10-ounce) jar blueberry preserves  
Garnishes: fresh mint leaves, edible pansies

Arrange half of bread cubes in a lightly greased 13- x 9-inch pan. Sprinkle evenly with cream cheese and 1 cup blueberries; top with remaining bread cubes.

Whisk together eggs, 4 cups milk, sugar, butter and maple syrup; pour over bread mixture, pressing bread cubes to absorb egg mixture.

Cover and chill 8 hours.

Bake, covered, at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake 30 more minutes or until lightly browned and set. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

Stir together remaining 2 cups blueberries and blueberry preserves in a saucepan over low heat until warm. Serve blueberry mixture over bread pudding. Garnish, if desired.

Note: Make this easy, decadent recipe the day before, and chill; then bake and serve hot.

Prep time: 15 minutes, chill time: 8 hours, bake time 1 hour, stand time: 5 minutes. Makes 10 to 12 servings.

## A stunning centerpiece

Pretty peonies are even more divine when clustered in vases that show off their slender stems. We filled the vertical portions with stems, while the bowls hold peonies with stems cut about 6 inches below the blooms. Substitute roses or large, frilly-edged parrot tulips for an equally gorgeous centerpiece.

To create this look with items you already have, try stacking a shallow bowl on a wide-based vase just make sure it won't tip over. Secure the bottom of the bowl to the vase rim with florist clay or denture adhesive. You could also float blooms in a water-filled trifle bowl placed alongside a tall, flower-filled vase.

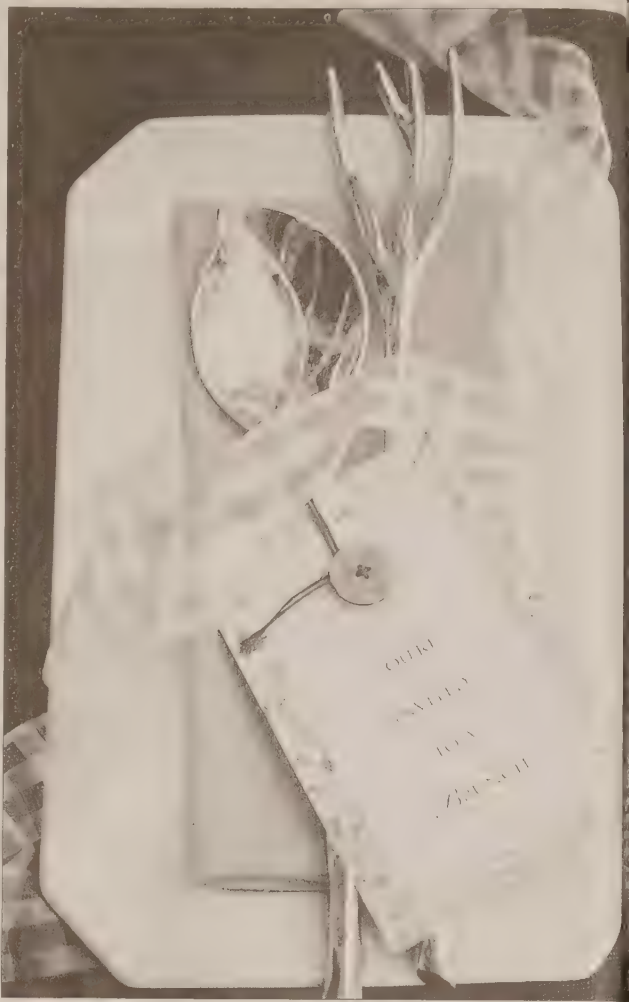
## Easy tabletop touches

We found the supplies for these smart-looking table touches at a combination crafts-fabric store.

Give new life to napkins you already have. Thread beads and buttons onto embroidery floss; then sew onto one corner of each napkin. Accent pastel colors with bright, primary colors for an elegant, energizing palette.

Send friends home with a treat. Pick up scrapbook paper, small organza bags, ribbons, embroidery floss and a hole puncher to make these party favor bags. Fill each one with Jordan almonds.

Answer guests' questions of "Is the tea sweet or unsweet?" or "Does this have alcohol?" with beverage labels. Braid embroidery floss, and attach it to a paper label using stationary sealing wax pressed with a decorative stamp. Follow package directions for using wax. For a quick alternative, use decorative stickers. Label each beverage, including water, to follow through with the idea.



FROM THE INVITATION to the food, you can set a theme and use creative pieces and colors.

Help partygoers keep track of their glasses. To make your own wine charms, string one color button for each guest onto fine gauge wire along with beads. Tie onto

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# Traditional pizza-making is a dying art form

**BY KEN DILANIAN**  
KNIGHT RIDER NEWSPAPERS

APLES, Italy — Antonio Pace says you have been eating the slice all your life — that is pizza. Real pizza — the kind his father has been making in Naples for 60 years — is made only with local, mostly Italian, ingredients: specific type of flour, tomatoes, mozzarella. You don't put pepperoni on it, let alone salmon or apple.

For years, traditionalists in this town port city have decried the mutations featured at your neighborhood parlor, while trying to preserve the old mini-recipes. So passionate is about his cause that a decade ago he founded a group called Associazione for True Neapolitan Pizza. To seal off approval to restaurants that make pizza using the method and ingredients.

Specifications are so exacting that, only a few hundred restaurants worldwide have the certification. And now the pizza guard has another problem: shortage of Italians who want "pizzaio!" — pizza-makers, head-hunting agency recently filled 20 percent-paying slots "pizzaio!" in Naples and came empty, despite a regional unemployment rate as high as 20 percent.

average Italian doesn't want to be in front of a hot oven in it," laments Walter Biggi, chief for Italy's Queen Margherita in 1889. The ingredients formed the colors of the Italian flag: tomato for red, basil for green, and for white, mozzarella cheese from the milk of the water buffalo.

Another version, the marinara, has no cheese but more tomato,

certification process for pizza-makers, but restaurants usually seek those who undergo an intensive four-week training course.

"Some good ones have gone to Australia, Canada, and the U.S., and they've made fortunes," Nistico said.

Yet another factor depressing interest in the profession may be the changing nature of the pizza business in Italy.

There were perhaps 40 pizzerias in the whole country in 1950, says Anthony Pace, founder of the Association for True Neapolitan Pizza. Today, he says, there are 36,000. Many of those are restaurants at which pizza is one of numerous menu offerings, whereas true pizzaio! only make pizza.

The result, purists argue, is that quality has suffered, and the craft of pizza-making has been devalued. Biggi, the pizza instructor, contends it is impossible to find a decent pizza in the historic center of Rome. Tourist traps abound, while locals frequent a chain called Spizzico, which has partnered with Burger King.

Recently an entrepreneur announced a plan that has the purists gagging: pizza-dispensing vending machines.

"This is not pizza," Pace says of the mass-market imitators, his voice dripping with derision. "It's another thing."

Real Neapolitan pizza, he contends, is made just like the one that, according to legend, was cooked for Italy's Queen Margherita in 1889. The ingredients formed the colors of the Italian flag: tomato for red, basil for green, and for white, mozzarella cheese from the milk of the water buffalo.

Another version, the marinara, has no cheese but more tomato,

diced into a thick and spicy topping.

Pace sells both at Ciro Santa Brigida, the landmark restaurant in the center of Naples where his family has been making pizza since 1931. Before that, he says, his ancestors sold pizzas in different locations in Naples as far back as the mid-1800s. On a recent afternoon, Japanese and American tourists mixed with local office-workers on their lunch breaks.

The pizzas he and other traditionalists serve in Naples are works of art. They arrive at the table as individual pies, hot from a brief stint in a wood-fired brick oven. The thin (but not too thin) wheel of soft, light crust is covered by just enough extra-virgin olive oil, sea salt, buffalo mozzarella cheese and San Marzano plum tomato slices to delight without overpowering. The purists may allow some mushrooms or anchovies, but they argue that such toppings as pepperoni (it's called spicy salami in Italy) stray too far.

That may be a losing battle — pizzerias catering to tourists have long used American-style toppings, and Arab immigrants have made their way into the business, bringing with them flavors and ingredients of their own — but Pace is still fighting it. With the support of the Italian Agriculture Ministry, he has for years been seeking a European Commission designation that will allow consumers to identify Neapolitan pizza the way they can know they are buying the true bubbly from the Champagne region or Parmigian cheese from Reggiano.

Currently, Pace's association, on the Web at [www.verapizzanapole-tana.org](http://www.verapizzanapole-tana.org), certifies nine independent pizzerias in the United States, as well as the Bertucci's chain, which

has more than 90 restaurants.

"For those who know, it means something," said Paul Seidman, Bertucci's senior vice president for marketing and product development. Indeed, Bertucci's pizzas — at least the ones without chicken or other outlandish toppings — are closer than most to those that Pace and his brethren serve in Naples. But they have crisper crusts, Seidman says, because "Neapolitan pizza is not all that appealing to most Americans. The dough is too soft."

And that reflects a truism about pizza: There will never be universal agreement about what "the best" looks and tastes like. Even within Italy, there is a war.

Biggi, of the National Pizza School in Rome, argues that electric ovens are superior to wood-fired ones and that a pizza slice should be crisp enough to be held up without drooping.

Pace comments, "There are some people who like knowing they are lying, and some people who lie out of ignorance." Replies Biggi: "If we ruin the beliefs of a lifetime, it's obvious that there will be people who resist."

One thing both men agree on, though: Pizza dough must be pressed by hand on a table.

Meanwhile, the Agriculture Ministry is setting up training programs to help encourage young people to become pizza-makers in the true Neapolitan style, says Rosario Lopa, a consultant to the ministry.

"The need," Pace said, "is infinite."

# Mint can't miss when paired with chocolate

**BY LAURA H. EHRET**  
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Before long now, that lovely little mint plant will overgrow the yard, not unlike a marauding green conqueror bent on claiming everything in its path.

Take advantage of all that green, fresh flavor to add a kick to chocolate sauce. Credit Heidi Marie Vukovic, chocolatier and pastry chef, for these two sauces: One marked by the creaminess of half-and-half and the other a sauce that's rich in flavor but contains no milk or cream.

Vukovic, the owner of Chocolate Harmony and co-owner of Cakes on Call in Houston, delivered a seminar on chocolate at the eighth annual Herbal Forum at Round Top, Texas, in the spring nascent.

She offered these recipes as one way to bring two favorites — chocolate and mint — together.

Both of her recipes start with an infusion made with bruised mint. To bruise mint on the stem, give a handful a good twist (as though wringing out clothes); if you have leaves, crush them to release the oils.

Vukovic advises using a high-quality chocolate for these recipes; she prefers Valrhona. She mentioned that high-end chocolate makers are putting the percentage of cocoa mass on the packaging: The higher the percentage of cocoa mass, the less sugar in the mix.

A chocolate with 64 percent cocoa mass, for instance, would be bittersweet, not semisweet. A chocolate with 75 percent is even less sweet. Let your taste be your guide in making the sauces.

Then smother coffee ice cream or luscious summer berries with a cape of minty chocolate, secure in knowing that you've subdued the green monster, at least for a while.

**SUMMER MINT CHOCOLATE SAUCE**  
1-3/4 cups half-and-half  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 cup firmly packed mint, bruised  
12 ounces bittersweet chocolate, coarsely chopped  
4 ounces semisweet chocolate, coarsely chopped

See MINT, Page 4

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**TONY ROMA'S**  
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**MINT CHOCOLATE SAUCE** makes a great topping for strawberries or other fresh spring and summer fruits.

## Mint

FROM PAGE 3

In a saucepan heat the half-and-half and sugar to a boil while stirring. Remove from heat and add the bruised mint and cover to infuse for 10 minutes. Put both chocolates in a medium bowl.

Reheat till the half-and-half mixture until it comes to a boil, remove from heat and pour through a strainer over the chocolate. Stir completely till the chocolate has melted. Pour the hot sauce into clean ½-pint jars. Store chocolate sauce in the refrigerator for up to 3 weeks. Serve sauce warm over ice cream or fresh berries. Makes about 2½ cups.

### MINT CHOCOLATE SAUCE NO. 2

Here is another suggested sauce marrying mint and chocolate,

and it is quick and easy to make.

- 1-½ cups water
- ¾ cup sugar
- ½ cup firmly packed mint
- 4 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped

2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder, sifted  
Put water with the sugar in a saucepan. Bring to a boil slowly, stirring constantly to dissolve the sugar. Remove from heat and add the bruised mint.

Cover and infuse for 10 minutes. Put the chocolate and cocoa powder in a bowl.

Reheat the mint syrup to a boil and then pour through a strainer over the chocolate and cocoa powder. Stir until completely melted and smooth.

Pour into clean ½ pint jars. Store in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks. Can be served warm or cold. Makes about 2½ cups.

Recipe source: Heidemarie Vukovic

# Tips for adding whimsy to your room

BY KIM HONE MC-MAHAN  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

The house looking a bit drab after the long, bitter winter? There are things you can do to cheer up the place.

It seemed only natural to ask Kathy Kocher, owner of Kathy Kocher Interiors in Bath, Ohio, to give us a few tips on what to do to brighten a home for spring. Her house, for example, is a cheery place splashed with vivid colors and dramatic details.

"You need to start color from the floor up. That's my focal point," she said, nodding at a beautiful area rug inside her home. "The rugs today are like little works of art. I start with buying a rug and bring the colors up the wall, through the fabrics, the drapery treatments and the upholstery."

Area rugs come in a variety of designs and colors. They can be both expensive and affordable — depending on the quality and the manufacturer. If you're looking for something that won't gobble up a month or two of paychecks, consider the rugs offered at department or local home-improvement stores.

### Paint pointers

It can be a jungle out there when trying to select the right shade of paint. Kocher used both bright and subtle hues on her walls and ceilings.

"One of my favorite colors for spring is yellow," Kocher said. "Banana cream from Sherwin Williams is a beautiful background color that blends well with other colors, especially with the



**KATHY KOCHER** sits in the living room of her well-decorated home.

reds and blues."

Pink is also a great color for this time of year — whether it's used in furnishings or accessories. For a little bit of drama, Kocher suggests, using black — regardless of the season.

Books are accessories that might be overlooked as color sources. Kocher goes to tag sales in search of books covered in blue, red, green and black.

"In addition to using them to bring in color, I use books to stagger the heights

of my accessories. That creates interest," she said. "I use them under things like lamps and family photos."

Painting the rear of books with brighter or jewel tones.

See COLOR, Page 5

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# More seniors out to find or rekindle the flames of romance

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The dating game may be a lot more fun for seniors. Undoubtedly, numbers of older adults are heading back into the dating circuit, using everything from newspaper personal ads to online services to mingle, meet and possibly marry.

Why?

Experts say the rise in senior dating can be attributed to a multi-faceted mix of factors, including an increase in life expectancy, climbing divorce rates among adults over 50 and earlier retirements. Many seniors experience feelings of loneliness as they age, especially as spouses, siblings and friends die.

A return to romance offers a welcome—and healthy—social distraction. Beyond all the “mushy stuff,” dating can lead to finding a new friend with whom seniors can share their life experiences of today, from exploring the outdoors to talking about grandchildren or just chatting about current events over cappuccino.

Although many seniors are living on a limited income, thanks to senior discounts available for movies, theater, concerts, restaurants and museums, and even public transportation, dating for seniors is not only fun, but affordable. For those looking to get away, special “single seniors only” package getaways and cruises are also offered through various senior organiza-

tions, travel agents and several major airlines.

## Love.com

Modern technology has also facilitated the return to dating for many seniors. Internet use among adults is increasing, with 70 percent of seniors who own a personal computer going online in 1998, compared to 17 percent in 1995, according to a study by SeniorNet, a nonprofit organization of computer-using adults age 50 and over. Twenty-two percent of America Online Internet subscribers are 50 years of age or older. Quite naturally, this has led to the development of more than two dozen online dating services especially designed for seniors, where visitors can pick and click their way to a new romance or a companion for dinner, golf, a vacation or the movies.

There's another modern way to find a mate. Speed dating couples a man and woman for a short time, usually six to nine minutes, and then those two people are introduced to other potential suitors. At the end of the session, each person writes down the names of the people he or she was interested in based on their short conversation, and then if both people pick each other, a match is made and contact information distributed.

Speed dating, which was started as an answer to busy people's difficulty finding time to socialize, has transformed into a way for people of all ages to expand their circle of friends and contacts, even if romance is not always the final outcome. Seniors across the U.S., Canada and Europe are registering by the dozens at community centers or religious organizations that offer this rapid approach to match-

making.

## Relationship tips

Seniors should be careful to decide first what it is they want from any new relationships and what they are willing to risk to get it. If the risk doesn't pay off, it's important to take that lesson and apply it to the next dating decision.

Experts say it's also important to trust one's instincts. If it doesn't work, it doesn't work. They recommend against compromising one's desires or dignity just to be with someone.

## Color

FROM PAGE 4

as dark green, raspberry or deep coral, is another way to add color to a room.

## Creating fun

“Whimsical looks great for spring,” Kocher said, noting a light-colored bedspread in her guest room that's decorated with pictures of dogs and cats.

Changing a comforter or bedspread in the spring is an excellent way to transform a room, as well as have some fun.

Using seasonal items all year round, Kocher added, introduces color, as well as some whimsy to the room. During a recent visit to her home, pastel Easter eggs covered with glass beads were resting inside a glass case shaped like a pyramid.

For an easy way to update a room for spring, try swapping a plain lamp shade with one that has a floral design.

If you are simply looking for a quick spring lift-me-up, Kocher sug-

Experts also stress the need to learn about oneself to create and enforce dating limits. The more comfortable seniors are with the boundaries they have set for dating, romance and sex, the easier it will be to feel more open and appreciative about the delights of a new relationship.

## Romancing the Web

There are many potential pitfalls to dating online. If you're considering taking your romance to the World Wide Web, experts offer these tips for getting started:

- Be honest in how you describe yourself. If you lie, it will only lead to disappointment later on.
- Let friends review your ad to see if anything should be added or removed.
- Keep an optimistic outlook about dating. Always be positive when talking with new people.
- Don't divulge too much information initially. Take the time to get to know someone through e-mail.
- Don't stress too many limits about what you are looking for in a mate. Be open-minded in your search for companionship.



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KATHY KOCHER designed her master bedroom from the rug up by using colors from the rug's floral design.

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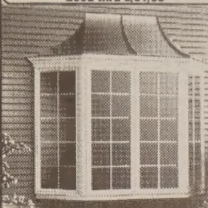
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#### Crema Marfil

Spanish Marble Tile

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